



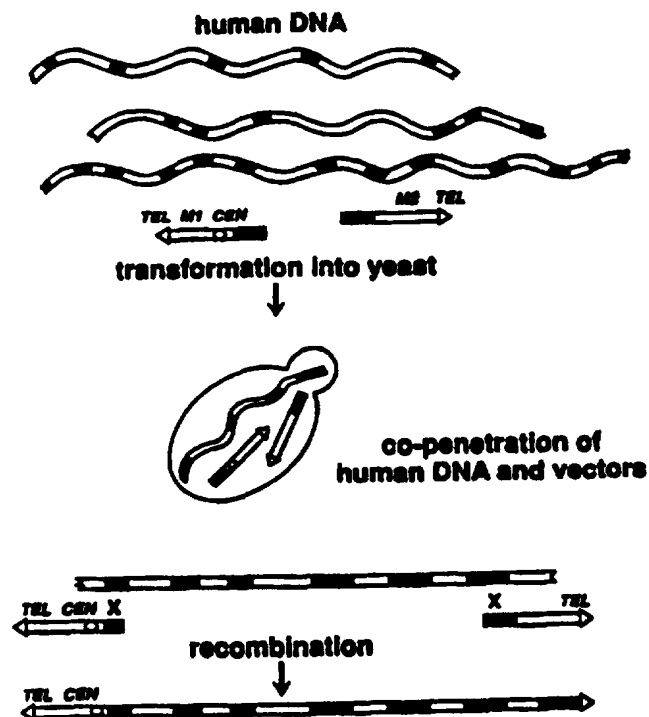
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(54) Title: TRANSFORMATION-ASSOCIATED RECOMBINATION CLONING

(57) Abstract

The invention is directed to a method of making a yeast artificial chromosome (YAC) comprising introducing into yeast cells a population of nucleic acids and a vector, wherein the vector comprises a yeast centromere, a selectable marker, a yeast telomere, and a sequence which can recombine with a region of a nucleic acid within the population of nucleic acids, whereby *in vivo* recombination makes the YAC. The invention is also directed to a method of making a YAC using two vectors and a method of making a circular YAC. The invention is also directed toward methods of making YACs with a selected nucleic acid insert from a mixed population of nucleic acids using transformation-associated recombination. The invention is further directed toward a method of cloning a selected nucleic acid from a population of nucleic acids into a vector comprising introducing into yeast cells a population of nucleic acids and the vector, wherein the vector comprises a specific sequence which can recombine with a region of the selected nucleic acid within the population of nucleic acids and a non-specific sequence which can recombine with the selected nucleic acid within the population of nucleic acids; whereby *in vivo* recombination makes a clone of the vector selected nucleic within the vector. The invention is also directed toward the products made by, and the vectors and reagents used in these methods. The invention is also directed toward a method of TAR cloning in *E. coli*.



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TRANSFORMATION-ASSOCIATED RECOMBINATION CLONING

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to methods of efficiently producing yeast artificial chromosomes and to methods of efficiently and selectively cloning yeast artificial chromosomes from mixed population of nucleic acids. The invention also relates to a method of selectively cloning a specific nucleic acid. Also included in the present invention are vectors used in these methods and products formed using these methods.

BACKGROUND ART

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A critical step in the characterization of large genomes, including that of humans, has been the cloning of large chromosomal fragments. This has been fulfilled through the development of artificial chromosomes in the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (YACs) and has led to the large scale physical map of the human genome derived from several YAC libraries (Burke, et al., *Science* 236, 806-812 (1987) and Guyer, et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U S A* 92, 10841-10848 (1995)).

Because of their large size, YACs have proven essential in genome mapping of many organisms. However, artifacts such as chimeras and deletions can limit their use (Kouprina, et al., *Genomics* 21, 7-17 (1994), Green, et al, *Genomics* 11, 658-669 (1991), Wada, et al., (1994) *Nucleic Acids Res.* 22, 1561-1554 (1994), and Schlessinger, et al., *Genomics* 11, 783-794 (1991)). These artifacts may result from *in vitro* DNA manipulation resulting in the DNA becoming broken or nicked. Up to 50% of YACs in libraries are represented by chimeric clones containing noncontiguous fragments of DNA; the chimeric YACs could result from *in vitro* DNA ligation as well as from *in vivo* recombination between co-penetrating DNA molecules (Green, et al., *Genomics* 11, 658-669 (1991), Wada, et al., *Nucleic Acids Res.* 22, 1561-1554 (1994), and Larionov, et al., *Nucleic Acids Res.* 22, 4154-4161 (1994)). In addition

internal deletions can occur during propagation of some YACs (Neil, et al., *Nucleic Acids Res.* 18, 1421-1428 (1990) and Kouprina, et al., *Genomics* 21, 7-17 (1994)), probably from recombinational interactions between repeated sequences.

5 Improved fidelity of cloned DNA can be accomplished through the generation of artificial chromosomes in bacteria (BACs and PACs) (Shizuya, et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 89, 8794-8797 (1992) and Shepherd, et al., *Genetic Engineering*, Ed. by J. K. Setlow, 16, 213-228 (1994)). However, the average size of these artificial chromosomes is much smaller (<150 kb) than can be attained with YACs where
10 megabase YACs have been utilized for mapping. The lack of chimeras and the stability of BACs during propagation have contributed to their utility, especially in conjunction with physical mapping information obtained with YACs. They have been especially useful for closure of some of the gaps between contigs generated using large YAC clones.

15 It has become apparent that the ability to isolate specific chromosomal regions would greatly benefit positional cloning and studies of various human diseases as well as fill the gaps in existing maps. Human chromosome and subchromosome-specific libraries can be prepared from either flow-sorted chromosomes or from genomic DNA
20 of somatic hybrid cell lines containing a single human chromosome (McCormick, et al., *Genomics* 18, 553-558 (1993)). Despite the advantages, the generation of libraries from flow-sorted chromosomes is a laborious process due to the difficulty in purifying sufficient quantities of chromosomes. Because of this, many chromosome-specific libraries have been generated by cloning directly from monochromosomal hybrid lines,
25 with the clones being screened for human inserts by hybridization. (Gingrich, et al., *Genomics* 15, 228-230 (1993)).

 This invention overcomes problems in the art by providing an alternative approach for cloning human DNA into yeast as large linear YACs that omits the *in*
30 *vitro* ligation step. The approach is based on transformation-associated recombination (TAR). In one embodiment the TAR occurs between a repeat within transformed

DNA fragments (such as an *Alu* or *LINE*) and a repeat sequence on a co-transformed linearized plasmid that also contains a yeast centromere and a telomere. Using this new YAC construction technique, we have successfully made YACs containing human DNA from human chromosomes without in vitro enzymatic treatment to the DNA.

- 5 We have also successfully used this technique to selectively clone specific DNA from a background of mixed DNAs. This technique, therefore, has a tremendous utility of being able to selectively isolate DNAs from hybrid cell or other populations where the DNAs are from mixed origins.

- 10 Based on this new TAR cloning procedure, we have, in a specific embodiment, also exploited the use of TAR cloning centromere vectors that have human DNA repeats at both ends in order to generate large circular YACs. This circular TAR cloning system is highly efficient for the specific isolation of human DNAs from monochromosomal/hybrid cell lines and it can be used to rapidly isolate human DNAs
15 from radiation hybrids containing only a small fragment of a human chromosome. The circular YACs greatly facilitate subsequent physical isolation and analysis of the cloned material.

- 20 Additionally, we have expanded this new TAR cloning method to a yeast cloning system that can specifically clone a selected nucleic acid from a mixed population of nucleic acids by incorporating into the cloning vector a sequence or region that is specific for the selected nucleic acid and which recombines with the selected nucleic acid. This specificity of the sequence which recombines with the nucleic acid allows one to specifically target a nucleic acid or nucleic acid species, a
25 cDNA for example, from a mixed population of nucleic acids and specifically clone, and therefore isolate, that individually selected nucleic acid. This allows one to selectively clone a nucleic acid, such as a cDNA, where only part of the sequence of that nucleic acid was previously known. There are an increasing number of cDNAs being generated where only the 3'-ends of these cDNAs are being sequenced. This
30 technique will allow for the selective cloning of these cDNAs based on that information. The remaining sequence information from these nucleic acids can,

therefore, be rapidly identified. This complete sequence information will accelerate the determination of the role of these molecules in the organism, and allow investigators to more efficiently and thoroughly determine the roles and interactions of specific genes in the life cycle of that organism. Further, the invention also provides for the
5 expansion of TAR cloning to *E. coli*.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with the purpose(s) of this invention, as embodied and broadly
10 described herein, this invention, in one aspect, relates to a method of making a yeast artificial chromosome comprising introducing into yeast cells a population of nucleic acids and a vector, wherein the vector comprises a yeast centromere, a selectable marker, a yeast telomere, and a sequence which can recombine with a region of a nucleic acid within the population of nucleic acids; whereby *in vivo* recombination
15 makes the yeast artificial chromosome.

The invention also provides a method of making a yeast artificial chromosome comprising introducing into yeast cells a population of nucleic acids and 1) a first vector comprising a yeast centromere, a yeast telomere, and a first sequence which can
20 recombine with a region of a nucleic acid within the population of nucleic acids and 2) a second vector comprising a yeast telomere and a second sequence which can recombine with a region of the nucleic acid within the population of nucleic acids; and wherein, at least one of the vectors further comprises a selectable marker; whereby *in vivo* recombination makes the yeast artificial chromosome.

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In another aspect, the invention provides a method of making a circular yeast artificial chromosome comprising introducing into yeast cells a population of nucleic acids and a vector, wherein the vector comprises a yeast centromere, a selectable marker, and at least two sequences which can recombine with a region of a nucleic
30 acid within the population of nucleic acids; whereby *in vivo* recombination makes the circular yeast artificial chromosome.

In another aspect, the invention provides a method of making a yeast artificial chromosome with a selected insert nucleic acid from a mixed population of nucleic acids comprising introducing into yeast cells the mixed population of nucleic acids and a vector, wherein the vector comprises a yeast centromere, a selectable marker, a yeast
5 telomere, and a sequence which can recombine with a region of the selected insert nucleic acid within the mixed population of nucleic acids; whereby *in vivo* recombination makes the yeast artificial chromosome with the selected insert nucleic acid.

10 In another aspect, the invention provides a method of making a yeast artificial chromosome with a selected insert nucleic acid from a mixed population of nucleic acids comprising introducing into yeast cells the mixed population of nucleic acids and
1) a first vector comprising a yeast centromere, a yeast telomere, and a first sequence which can recombine with a region of the selected insert nucleic acid within the mixed
15 population of nucleic acids and 2) a second vector comprising a yeast telomere and a second sequence which can recombine with a region of the selected insert nucleic acid within the mixed population of nucleic acids, and wherein, at least one of the vectors further comprises a selectable marker; whereby *in vivo* recombination makes the yeast artificial chromosome with the selected insert nucleic acid.

20 In another aspect, the invention provides a method of making a circular yeast artificial chromosome with a selected insert nucleic from a mixed population of nucleic acids comprising introducing into yeast cells the mixed population of nucleic acids and a vector, wherein the vector comprises a yeast centromere, a selectable marker and at
25 least two sequences which can recombine with a region of the selected insert nucleic acid within the mixed population of nucleic acids; whereby *in vivo* recombination makes the circular yeast artificial chromosome with the selected insert nucleic acid.

In another aspect, the invention provides a method of cloning a selected nucleic
30 acid from a population of nucleic acids into a vector comprising introducing into yeast cells a population of nucleic acids and the vector, wherein the vector comprises a

specific sequence which can recombine with a region of the selected nucleic acid within the population of nucleic acids and a non-specific sequence which can recombine with a region of the selected nucleic acid within the population of nucleic acids; whereby *in vivo* recombination makes a clone of the selected nucleic acid within the vector.

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In another aspect, the invention provides for the vectors used in the methods of the invention and for the products made by the methods of the invention.

Additional advantages of the invention will be set forth in part in the description which follows, and in part will be apparent from the description, or may be learned by practice of the invention. The advantages of the invention will be realized and attained by means of the elements and combinations particularly pointed out in the appended claims. It is to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description are exemplary and explanatory only and are not
10
15 restrictive of the invention, as claimed.

The accompanying figures, which are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification, illustrate several embodiments of the invention and together with the description, serve to explain the principles of the invention.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 shows the isolation of human DNAs as YACs using the TAR-cloning method. Yeast spheroplasts are transformed with human DNA along with vectors containing *M1* and *M2* genetic markers. The filled-in blocks in human DNA and vectors identify repeated *Alu* (or *LINE*) sequences. Following co-penetration, YACs are generated by recombination between repeat sequences in human DNA and vectors.

Figure 2 shows the *Alu*-profiles of YACs generated by TAR-cloning method. The profiles were produced by hybridization of a BLUR13 probe with *TaqI*-digested DNA

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from 18 randomly selected clones. Lane 7 corresponds to DNA of a host yeast strain; lane 20 corresponds to the lambda DNA ladder.

Figure 3 shows the size distribution of YACs obtained by TAR-cloning. The YACs that were isolated by co-transformation of human DNA along with two vectors (33 YACs; hatched bars) have the *HIS3* and *TRP1* markers. Also presented are results for 82 YACs (filled bars) obtained by co-transformation with a single *HIS3* vector lacking an *ARS*.

Figure 4 shows the physical characterization of 20 randomly selected human YACs developed by TAR-cloning from monochromosomal cell line CY18. In Fig. 4A the chromosomal size DNAs isolated from clones containing the YACs are ethidium bromide-stained. Positions of YACs are shown by arrows. In Fig. 4B the YACs are identified with a labeled human DNA probe.

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Figure 5 shows the ideogram of chromosome 16 representing the distribution of signals generated by FISH mapping using whole YAC DNAs as hybridization probes. Primary signals are defined as those on chromosome 16 or, where secondary sites are also seen on 16, the site that is positive in the highest proportion of cells. Filled and open circles correspond to primary and secondary sites, respectively. One YAC hybridized at "multiple" positions.

Figure 6 shows the isolation of human DNAs as circular YACs using the TAR cloning method. (A) TAR cloning vectors. Presented are pVC39-AAH4, -AAT3, -AAH2, -MAH8, -MAH10 and -LAH2 vectors containing an *Alu*, *LINE* or *MER* sequences. *CEN6* = centromere; *Amp^R* = ampicillin-resistance gene. (B) The TAR cloning scheme. Yeast spheroplasts are transformed with human DNA along with a TAR cloning vector. Recombination between repeats in the vector and human DNA leads to the establishment of a circular YAC. The filled-in blocks in human DNA and vectors identify repeated *Alu*, *LINE* or *MER* sequences.

Figure 7 shows the physical characterization of 5 randomly selected circular human YACs developed by TAR cloning from total human DNA. Chromosomal size DNA was separated by TAFE gel electrophoresis and blot-hybridized with a human DNA probe. Strong signals located at the positions of the starting wells correspond to circular YACs (lanes 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10). A band corresponding to linear molecules was also detected. Irradiation of the plugs with human YACs resulted in appearance of the bands corresponding to linear forms of the YACs (lanes 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11).

Figure 8 shows the separation of the circular YAC from chromosomal yeast DNA by TAFE. In (A) the chromosome size DNAs are ethidium bromide stained. Lane 2 corresponds to 550 kb circular YAC that was isolated from a well after the first TAFE run was treated with *NotI* and subjected again to TAFE electrophoresis. Lane 1 has λ -DNA size markers; lanes 3 and 4 correspond to yeast DNA treated by *NotI*. In (B) the linearized YAC is identified with a human DNA probe.

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Figure 9 shows the size distribution of circular YACs generated by the TAR vector pVC39-AAH2 from a human hybrid cell line containing chromosome 16. Presented are the results for 110 YACs.

Figure 10 shows the *Alu*-profiles of YACs generated by TAR cloning method from hamster radiation hybrid cells containing a 5 Mb human DNA fragment. The profiles were produced by hybridization of an 82 bp *Alu* probe with *TaqI*-digested DNA isolated from the transformants.

Figure 11 shows the physical analysis of the YACs generated by a single telomere-containing TAR cloning vector. (A) Chromosome size DNA from 3 subclones derived from the same transformant were subjected to TAFE and blot-hybridized with a human DNA probe. (B) *Alu*-profiles of the YACs from the same subclones. (C) DNAs from the same subclones were digested with either *ClaI*, *EcoRV*, *NotI* or *SfiI*, electrophoresed and hybridized with a probe unique to the vector.

Figure 12 shows a circular TAR cloning vector containing a yeast 2 μ for high copy propagation in yeast, a yeast selectable marker (M), an *E. coli* origin (ori), antibiotic selection (AB) and regions of DNA homology for TAR (5'HOM and 3' HOM; 5' upstream and 3' downstream homology to a DNA of interest) flanking the yeast CSM (counter-selectable marker) and stuffer fragment (SF) containing a unique restriction enzyme site (RE) which will generate blunt ends after digestion.

Figure 13 shows the experimental design of TAR cloning a DNA containing a GAL1 promoter, and a URA3 gene into a TAR cloning vector containing a counter-selectable marker.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention may be understood more readily by reference to the following detailed description of preferred embodiments of the invention and the Examples included therein and to the Figures and their previous and following description.

Before the present methods and compositions are disclosed and described, it is to be understood that this invention is not limited to specific methods, specific vectors, or other specific reagents, as such may, of course, vary. It is also to be understood that the terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular embodiments only and is not intended to be limiting.

It must be noted that, as used in the specification and the appended claims, the singular forms "a," "an" and "the" include plural referents unless the context dictates otherwise. Thus, for example, multiple copies of a nucleic acid would necessarily include "a nucleic acid" as used in the claims.

The term "nucleic acid" is a term familiar to one of ordinary skill in the art and is used herein to describe any nucleic acid. Included in this term, therefore is DNA and

RNA, and mixtures of DNA and RNA. Also included in this term is single stranded DNA and single stranded RNA, as well as double stranded DNA and double strand RNA, and mixtures of these double stranded molecules. Also included are hybrids of the different types of nucleic acid. For example, a single nucleic acid molecule may include deoxyribonucleic acids and ribonucleic acids within same nucleic acid strand, or a hybrid molecule may comprise a strand of RNA hybridized to a strand of DNA, such as is synthesized by reverse transcription of an RNA molecule.

The term "selectable marker" is a term familiar to one of ordinary skill in the art and is used herein to describe any genetic entity which, when expressed, can be used to select for a cell or cells containing the selectable marker within. This typically includes a nucleic acid encoding a gene conferring resistance to a compound which, when expressed, allows an organism containing the nucleic acid to survive in a medium which contains that compound. Examples of these selectable markers typically includes genes conferring resistance to antibiotics, such a tetracycline or ampicillin.

Alternatively, the term "selectable marker" also encompasses the use of a nucleic acid encoding a protein which is at least partially responsible for the synthesis of a metabolite which is necessary for the organism containing the selectable marker to grow and survive in a medium not containing the particular metabolite. For example, the selectable marker *HIS3* encoding the enzyme imidazole glycerolphosphate dehydratase allows an organism, particularly yeast, to grow and survive on a media lacking histidine.

The term a "population of nucleic acids" is also a term familiar to one of ordinary skill in the art and is used herein to describe a mixture of nucleic acids. This population of nucleic acids can include multiple copies of a single nucleic acid, such as multiple copies of the same nucleic acid after a nucleic acid template has been amplified, replicated, or transcribed. As used herein, the term "population of nucleic acids" includes homogeneous mixtures of nucleic acids and heterogeneous mixtures of nucleic acids. This population of nucleic acids may, therefore, comprise a mixture of

different nucleic acids, such as a preparation of DNA or RNA from an organism where the population of nucleic acids includes different nucleic acid molecules. The population of a mixture of nucleic acids from an organism includes the nucleic acids typically located within that particular organism, as well as nucleic acids not typically located within, or foreign to, that particular organism. For example, this mixed population of nucleic acids may be from a hybrid cell line where a cell line of one species may contain nucleic acids from another organism. This foreign nucleic acid may be located extrachromosomally, such as an episome or autonomously replicating nucleic acid, or integrated within the genome of the organism, such as with the integration of foreign nucleic acid into the host cell nucleic acid. Alternatively, the foreign nucleic acid may itself comprise a chromosome that is not normally found within the organism, a yeast artificial chromosome, for example.

The term "mixed population of nucleic acids" also a term familiar to one of ordinary skill in the art and is used herein to describe a heterogeneous mixture of nucleic acids. As described above, this mixed population may originate from a preparation of nucleic acids from an organism, where the organism contains nucleic acid typically found within that organism or where that organism contains nucleic acids not typically found within that organism, or both. Alternatively, one skilled in the art will readily appreciate that a mixed population of nucleic acids may arise from *in vitro* methods, such as *in vitro* transcription of an RNA population from a cell, or simply combining different nucleic acids.

The term "counter-selectable marker" is also a term familiar to one of ordinary skill in the art and is used herein to describe a phenotypic marker that can be used to select for those cells that do not contain the counter-selectable marker. For example, a counter-selectable marker, when contained and expressed in a cell, may cause that cell to grow more slowly than cells that do not contain and express that counter-selectable marker. A typical example of such a counter-selectable is the SUP11 encoding nucleic acid which encodes for a suppressor tRNA. When the nucleic acid encoding this counter-selectable marker is expressed on a high copy plasmid within a cell, the

resulting tRNA causes, for example, yeast cells containing and expressing the SUP11 nucleic acid to grow poorly, or to not grow at all. Other examples of counter-selectable markers include LYS2 and URA3. Loss of the LYS2 marker is associated with resistance to alpha-amino adipate and loss of the URA3 marker is associated with resistance to 5 flouro-orotic acid.

This counter selectable marker can also comprise a color selection procedure. These color selection systems will be apparent to one skilled in the art, and will allow more rapid identification of a cell containing and expressing that marker. For example, expression of the SUP11 on a low copy plasmid in cells carrying the ade2-101 nonsense mutation causes that cell to express a white phenotype. When the SUP11 counter-selectable is not expressed, such as through recombination, those cells express a red phenotype. It will be apparent to one skilled in the art, that a combination of different counter-selectable markers may be used simultaneously, such as the SUP11/ade2-linked system.

In accordance with the purpose(s) of this invention, as embodied and broadly described herein, this invention, in one aspect, relates to a method of making a yeast artificial chromosome comprising introducing into yeast cells a population of nucleic acids and a vector, wherein the vector comprises a yeast centromere, a selectable marker, a yeast telomere, and a sequence which can recombine with a region of a nucleic acid within the population of nucleic acids; whereby *in vivo* recombination makes the yeast artificial chromosome.

The components of the vector, such as the yeast centromere and a yeast telomere, are well known to those skilled in the art. These nucleic acid entities have previously been used in the construction of yeast artificial chromosomes (YACs). For example, see Schlessinger, D. for a general discussion of various YAC construction. ("Yeast artificial chromosomes: tools for mapping and analysis of complex genomes" *Trends in Genetics* 6:248-264 (1990)). Additionally, the vector may further comprise a replication origin (ARS, autonomously replicating sequence). Where the vector does

not contain a replication origin, such ARS sequence or ARS-like sequence may originate from the nucleic acid which recombines with the vector and becomes part of the YAC, thereby coffering on the YAC the capacity for replication. Alternatively, an ARS sequence may be within both the vector and the nucleic acid which recombines
5 with the vector and becomes part of the YAC.

The yeast artificial chromosome is made through the yeast cell's ability for transformation-associated recombination. When the vector and the nucleic acids are introduced to the yeast cells, recombination occurs between sequences on the vector
10 and sequences or regions on the nucleic acids which can recombine. For example, and as disclosed in the Examples contained herein, the sequence on the vector which can recombine with a region of a nucleic acid within the population of nucleic acids can comprise a repeat sequence, such as an *Alu* repeat. (See, *Watson, et al.*, "Recombinant DNA" 2nd ed, Dist. by W.H. Freeman and Co., New York, 1992). Therefore the
15 sequence of the vector which can recombine with a region of the nucleic acid within the mixed population of nucleic acids recombines with a repeat sequence on a nucleic acid within the population of nucleic acids.

Where the sequence on the vector which can recombine with a region of a
20 nucleic acid within a population of nucleic acids comprises a short interspersed element (SINES), such as an *Alu* repeat, recombination between the sequence on the vector and a similar sequence on the nucleic acid may be at any one of a plurality of sites on the nucleic acid. For example, a population of nucleic acids from a particular organism, such as a human, may contain multiple *Alu* repeats and recombination
25 between a vector sequence comprising an *Alu* repeat and an *Alu* repeat or *Alu*-like repeat sequence on a nucleic acid within the population of nucleic acids may occur at various sites on the nucleic acid.

The sequence on the vector which can recombine with a region of a nucleic
30 acid within the population of nucleic acids may be divergent from the sequence with which it recombines. It is well known in the art that recombination in yeast does not

require complete homology between the recombining sequences. For example, see Larionov, et al., which demonstrates less than a 5-fold reduction in recombination efficiency where the transformation-associated recombination occurs between sequences with approximately 15% sequence divergence relative to completely homologous sequences. ("Transformation-associated recombination between diverged and homologous DNA repeats is induced by strand breaks." *Yeast* 10:930104 (1994)). See also, Mezard, et al., where recombination between co-transforming molecules with 27% divergence was observed. ("Recombination between similar but not identical DNA sequences during yeast transformation occurs within short stretches of identity." *Cell* 70:656-670 (1992)).

It is well known in the art that there is divergence in repeat sequences even in the same cell (Batzner, et al. "A consensus *Alu* repeat probe for physical mapping." *Genet. Anal. Tech. Appl.* 11:34-38 (1994)). *Alu* repeats in the genome of an individual may show approximately 80% homology (*Watson, et al.*) to each other. One skilled in the art will therefore realize that a sequence on a vector which can recombine with a region of a nucleic acid within a population of nucleic acids may be used in recombination reactions with nucleic acids from different sources. This will allow one to make Yeast artificial chromosomes from different sources using vectors which can recombine with a nucleic acid from each of those sources.

Other repeats may be used in the methods of the present invention as well. For example, LINE sequences comprise a family of repetitive sequences present in most, if not all mammals. (Smit, et al. "Ancestral mammalian-wide subfamilies of LINE-1 repetitive sequences." *J. Mol. Biol.* 246:401-417 (1996)) This particular family of repeats comprises at least 47 distinct subfamilies within the L1 family which can be used in the methods of the present invention for the construction of yeast artificial chromosomes from each member of each of those subfamilies. Additionally, repeat sequences that are distinct to a particular organism may be used to make a yeast artificial chromosome containing nucleic acids from that particular organism. For example, rodent B1 repeats may be used to construct yeast artificial chromosomes

containing rodent nucleic acids by using a sequence homologous to, or resembling one of the many B1 repeats. (See, e.g., Zietkiewicz, et al., "Mosaic evolution of rodent B1 elements." *J. Mol. Biol.* 42:66-72 (1996), Jurka, et al., *Nucl Acids Res.* 21:1273-1279 (1993) (for a discussion of human MER repeat sequences), and Cox, et al. *Genomics* 5 10:375-384 (1991) (for a discussion of mouse B2 repeats)).

The sequence on the vector which can recombine with a region of a nucleic acid within a population of nucleic acids may also recombine with a region on the nucleic acid that is unique. Therefore the sequence with which it hybridizes on the
10 nucleic acid within the population of nucleic acids may be unique to that nucleic acid or unique in only one of the regions of recombination.

The sequence on the vector which can recombine with a region of a nucleic acid within a population of nucleic acids may also recombine with a region on the
15 nucleic acid that is neither considered a unique sequence or a repeat sequence. For example, one skilled in the art will readily appreciate that various regions of genes comprise sequences of varying degrees of homology, such as promoter sequences and various regulatory sequences. These sequences may also be utilized as sequences on the vector which can recombine with a region of a nucleic acid within a population of
20 nucleic acids.

Similarly, the sequence on the vector which can recombine with a region of a nucleic acid within a population of nucleic acids may recombine with a region on the nucleic acid that comprises a relatively random sequence. The methods of the present
25 invention represent a novel method of Yeast artificial chromosome construction and are not limited by the sequence of the vector which can recombine with a region of a nucleic acid within a population of nucleic acids.

The sequence on the vector which can recombine with a nucleic acid within a
30 population of nucleic acids may recombine with a region anywhere on the nucleic acid. For example, the vector sequence may recombine with a region of the nucleic acid

relatively internal to that nucleic acid, or a region of the nucleic acid which is relatively terminal to that nucleic acid. As discussed in the Examples contained herein, a preferred region on both the vector and the nucleic acid for the recombination is at a terminal region, although the transformation frequency of a nucleic acid where the
5 sequence on the vector was 300 bases internal to the vector was approximately the same as where the sequence was at the terminus of the vector.

The size of the sequence on the vector which can recombine with a region of a nucleic acid within a population of nucleic acids can be any length sequence which can
10 recombine using the methods of the present invention. For example, and as described in the Examples contained herein, a sequence on a vector which efficiently recombined with a region of a nucleic acid within a population of nucleic acids consisted of a 45 bp fragment of an *Alu* repeat. The Examples contained herein also describes efficient TAR cloning of a nucleic acid using a vector comprising a recombination region of
15 homology between 32 and 697 bp. There is, therefore, a broad range of sizes of the recombination region on the vector which will enable one skilled in the art to practice the methods of the present invention. The precise size of the sequence on the vector which can recombine with the nucleic acid is not limited to the Examples contained herein, as these are only examples and not intended to be limiting. With the
20 information and Examples as disclosed herein, one skilled in the art will be able to practice the methods of the present invention in any number of different systems using any number of different populations of nucleic acids and any number of vectors.

The vector of the methods provided by the present invention comprises a yeast
25 centromere, a selectable marker, a yeast telomere, and a sequence which can recombine with a region of a nucleic acid within a population of nucleic acids. The vector can further comprise a yeast origin of replication, such as an ARS, so that nucleic acids within the population of nucleic acids may be targeted for yeast artificial chromosome construction independent of whether those nucleic acids contain an ARS
30 or a region that can function as an ARS. Where the vector further comprises a yeast origin of replication, the yeast artificial chromosome made using the methods of the

present invention can replicate in yeast cells whether or not the nucleic acid forming the remainder of the yeast artificial chromosome contains an origin of replication.

5 The order of the elements on the vector can vary, but the yeast telomere should be located at a distal end and the sequence which can recombine with a region of a nucleic acid within a population of nucleic acids should be at the proximal end. The relative locations of the selectable marker and the yeast centromere within the vector can vary, so long as they are not removed, or inactivated by the recombination event.

10 The vector of the methods provided by the present invention can further comprise a counter-selectable marker. This counter-selectable marker, as discussed above, allows one to determine whether recombination between the vector and a nucleic acid within a population of nucleic acids has occurred, generally by limiting the growth of the vector within the yeast cells where recombination has not occurred. The
15 counter-selectable marker, therefore, is preferably removed from the vector or inactivated as a result of the recombination. This counter-selectable marker is preferably adjacent to the sequence on the vector which can recombine with a region of a nucleic acid within a population of nucleic acids. This counter-selectable marker, however, can be located on the vector at any position which allows its removal, or its
20 inactivation, as a result of recombination.

The present invention provides a method of making a yeast artificial chromosome wherein the population of nucleic acids and the two vectors can be combined prior to introducing the population of nucleic acids and the vectors into the
25 yeast cells. The population of nucleic acids and the vectors, however, can be combined prior to introducing the population of nucleic acids and the vectors into the yeast cells, or the nucleic acids and the vectors can be sequentially added to the yeast cells. In a specific embodiment of the present invention, the vectors and the nucleic acids are combined prior to introducing them into the yeast cells.

30

As described in the Examples contained herein, this recombination reaction using one vector containing at least a yeast telomere, results in the initial formation of a yeast artificial chromosome with at least part of the vector, and therefore one telomere, at one end of the yeast artificial chromosome. Since the yeast artificial
5 chromosomes formed by this method each initially comprise a telomere at one end of the yeast artificial chromosome, these yeast artificial chromosomes may be used to generate a family of deletions to a specific yeast artificial chromosome, thereby creating a library of yeast artificial chromosome deletion mutants.

10 The invention also provides a method of making a yeast artificial chromosome comprising introducing into yeast cells a population of nucleic acids and 1) a first vector comprising a yeast centromere, a yeast telomere, and a first sequence which can recombine with a region of a nucleic acid within the population of nucleic acids and 2)
15 a second vector comprising a yeast telomere and a second sequence which can recombine with a region of the nucleic acid within the population of nucleic acids; and wherein, at least one of the vectors further comprises a selectable marker; whereby *in vivo* recombination makes the yeast artificial chromosome.

As described in the Examples contained herein, this recombination reaction
20 using two vectors, each containing at least a yeast telomere, results in the formation of a yeast artificial chromosome with at least part of one vector, and therefore one telomere, at one end of the yeast artificial chromosome and at least part of the other vector, and therefore the other telomere, at the other end of the yeast artificial chromosome. Since the yeast artificial chromosomes formed by this method each
25 comprise a telomere at each end of the yeast artificial chromosome, these yeast artificial chromosomes are relatively stable and resistant to end-degradation.

This method comprises a first vector comprising a yeast centromere, a yeast telomere, and a first sequence which can recombine with a region of a nucleic acid
30 within a population of nucleic acids and a second vector comprising a yeast telomere

and a second sequence which can recombine with a region of the nucleic acid within the population of nucleic acids.

5 The first sequence and the second sequence may comprise repeat sequences, such as an *Alu* repeat, an L1 element, or any other repeat sequence where these first and second sequences can recombine with a repeat sequence on the nucleic acid within the population of nucleic acids.

10 The first sequence of the first vector and the second sequence of the second vector, as discussed above for a sequence on a single vector, may be located anywhere on the vectors that allows recombination between the sequences and a region of the nucleic acid within the population of nucleic acids.

15 The first sequence which can recombine with a region of a nucleic acid and the second sequence which can recombine with a region of a nucleic acid may comprise the same sequence, or those sequences can be different. For example, the first sequence may comprise an *Alu* repeat and the second sequence may comprise an L1 element. Alternatively, the first sequence may comprise an *Alu* repeat and the second sequence may also comprise an *Alu* repeat, but these two repeats may be divergent
20 from one another. This divergence also encompasses a sequence, such as a repeat on one vector and a similar repeat on the second vector, where one of the repeats comprises a fragment of the other repeat. For example, one sequence can comprise a complete *Alu* repeat where the other sequence comprises only part of the same repeat. As discussed above, it is widely known in the art that repeats such as *Alu* repeats
25 exhibit divergence within the same family of repeats and therefore both sequences may be *Alu* repeats, but those sequences may be divergent from one another.

30 The first sequence and the second sequence may also comprise sequences other than repeat sequences, or the two sequences may be a combination of a repeat sequence and a non-repeat sequence. One skilled in the art will readily appreciate the

number of combinations of sequences that may be used for either the first sequence or the second sequence in order to practice the methods of the present invention.

The sizes of the first sequence and the second sequence are also variable.

- 5 Using the methods and description of the methods as contained herein, one skilled in the art can readily determine the sizes of the first and second sequences in order to maximize the efficiency of their particular system.

This present invention also comprises a method of forming a yeast artificial
10 chromosome using two vectors where the first sequence which can recombine with a region of a nucleic acid and the second sequence which can recombine with a region of the nucleic acid are divergent from the sequence with which they recombine. Therefore the sequences on the vectors are not limited to recombination with a completely homologous sequence on the nucleic acid within a population of nucleic
15 acids. As discussed above, it is well known in the art that recombination in yeast does not require complete homology between the recombining sequences. The methods of the present invention, therefore, are not limited to a specific percent homology between the sequence(s) on the vector(s) and a region of a nucleic acid.

20 This method comprises a first vector comprising a yeast centromere, a yeast telomere, and a first sequence which can recombine with a region of a nucleic acid within a population of nucleic acids and a second vector comprising a yeast telomere and a second sequence which can recombine with a region of the nucleic acid within the population of nucleic acids where at least one of the vectors further comprises a
25 selectable marker. The selectable marker, therefore, can be located on either the first vector or the second vector.

In a specific embodiment, both the first vector and the second vector comprise a selectable marker. The selectable marker on the first vector may be the different
30 marker as on the second vector, or both markers may be the same.

The method of making a yeast artificial chromosome using two vectors as provided by the present invention comprises a first vector comprising a yeast centromere, a selectable marker, a yeast telomere, and a sequence which can recombine with a region of a nucleic acid within a population of nucleic acids and a
5 second vector comprising a yeast telomere and a second sequence which can recombine with a region of the nucleic acid within the population of nucleic acids. In one embodiment, the vectors further comprise a yeast origin of replication, such as an ARS, so that nucleic acids within the population of nucleic acids may be targeted for yeast artificial chromosome construction independent of whether those nucleic acids
10 contain an ARS or a region that can function as an ARS. Where the vector further comprises a yeast origin of replication, the yeast artificial chromosome made using the methods of the present invention can replicate in yeast cells whether or not the nucleic acid forming the remainder of the yeast artificial chromosome contains an origin of replication.

15

In another specific embodiment, either the first vector or the second vector further comprises a counter-selectable marker. This counter-selectable marker, therefore, may be located on either the first vector or the second vector. As discussed above, the counter-selectable marker is preferably removed from the vector or
20 inactivated as a result of the recombination. This counter-selectable marker is preferably adjacent to the sequence on the vector which can recombine with a region of a nucleic acid within a population of nucleic acids. This counter-selectable marker, however, can be located on the vector at any position which allows its removal, or its inactivation, as a result of recombination.

25

The methods of the present invention describe introducing into yeast cells a population of nucleic acids and a first vector and a second vector. The population of nucleic acids and the vectors, however, can be combined prior to introducing the population of nucleic acids and the vectors into the yeast cells, or the nucleic acids and
30 the vectors can be sequentially added to the yeast cells. In a specific embodiment of

the present invention, the vectors and the nucleic acids are combined prior to introducing them into the yeast cells.

5 In another aspect, the invention provides a method of making a circular yeast artificial chromosome comprising introducing into yeast cells a population of nucleic acids and a vector, wherein the vector comprises a yeast centromere, a selectable marker, and at least two sequences which can recombine with a region of a nucleic acid within the population of nucleic acids; whereby *in vivo* recombination makes the circular yeast artificial chromosome.

10

This method of making circular yeast artificial chromosome utilizes a vector comprising a yeast centromere a selectable marker, and at least two sequences which can recombine with a region of a nucleic acid within a population of nucleic acids. When recombination occurs between the vector and the nucleic acid, the nucleic acid
15 effectively integrates between at least two sequences which can recombine with the nucleic acid to form a circular yeast artificial chromosome.

The sequences which can recombine with a region of a nucleic acid within a population of nucleic acids, as previously discussed, may comprise the same sequences,
20 or these sequences may be different. Where the sequences are either the same or where they are different, two or more identical or different sequences may be generated by division of a single repeat. For example, a circular plasmid may contain a sequence, such as a single *Alu* repeat, which when digested with a restriction enzyme, results in a linear plasmid with parts of that repeat at each end. An example of this
25 method of generating more than one part of an *Alu* repeat from a larger *Alu* repeat is described in the Examples contained herein.

The sequences on the vector which can recombine with a region of a nucleic acid may comprise a repeat sequence, such as an *Alu* repeat, a L1 element, or any
30 other repeat sequence where these sequences can recombine with a repeat sequence on the nucleic acid within the population of nucleic acids.

These sequences may comprise any sequence which can recombine with a region of a nucleic acid. Therefore one sequence may comprise a repeat sequence and the remaining sequences may comprise non-repeat sequences, or all sequences may comprise non-repeat sequences, or any other combinations thereof.

5

These sequences, as previously discussed, may also be any size and they may be located at any position on the vector where they can recombine with a region of the nucleic acid to make a circular yeast artificial chromosome. Additionally, these sequences may divergent from the sequences on the nucleic acid with which they recombine, and they can recombine with one or any number of sequences within the nucleic acid.

In a specific embodiment, the present invention provides a method of making a circular yeast artificial chromosome using one vector where that vector further comprises a yeast origin of replication, such as an ARS, so that nucleic acids within the population of nucleic acids may be targeted for circular yeast artificial chromosome construction independent of whether those nucleic acids contain an ARS or a region that can function as an ARS. Where the vector further comprises a yeast origin of replication, the circular yeast artificial chromosome made using the methods of the present invention can replicate in yeast cells whether or not the nucleic acid forming the remainder of the yeast artificial chromosome contains an origin of replication.

In another specific embodiment, the present invention provides a method of making a circular yeast artificial chromosome using a vector which further comprises a counter-selectable marker. This counter-selectable marker, as discussed above, allows one to determine whether recombination between the vector and a nucleic acid within a population of nucleic acids has occurred, generally by limiting the growth of the vector within the yeast cells where recombination has not occurred. The counter-selectable marker, therefore, is preferably removed from the vector or inactivated as a result of the recombination. This counter-selectable marker is preferably adjacent to a sequence on the vector which can recombine with a region of a nucleic acid within a population

of nucleic acids. This counter-selectable marker, however, can be located on the vector at any position which allows its removal, or its inactivation, as a result of recombination.

5 The present invention provides a method of making a circular yeast artificial chromosome wherein the population of nucleic acids and the vector can be combined prior to introducing the population of nucleic acids and the vector into the yeast cells. The population of nucleic acids and the vector, however, can be combined prior to
10 introducing the population of nucleic acids and the vector into the yeast cells, or the nucleic acids and the vector can be sequentially added to the yeast cells. In a specific embodiment of the present invention, the vector and the nucleic acids are combined prior to introducing them into the yeast cells.

 In another aspect, the invention provides a method of making a yeast artificial
15 chromosome with a selected insert nucleic acid from a mixed population of nucleic acids comprising introducing into yeast cells the mixed population of nucleic acids and a vector, wherein the vector comprises a yeast centromere, a selectable marker, a yeast telomere, and a sequence which can recombine with a region of the selected insert
20 nucleic acid within the mixed population of nucleic acids; whereby *in vivo* recombination makes the yeast artificial chromosome with the selected insert nucleic acid.

 This selection method is directed toward the construction of a yeast artificial chromosome with a specific type of nucleic acid insert from a mixed population of
25 nucleic acids. For example, and as described in the Examples contained herein, the methods of the present invention allow one to specifically make a yeast artificial chromosome which contains a specific type or species of nucleic acid, human for example, from a population of nucleic acids that contains more than one type or species of nucleic acid. This mixed population of nucleic acids comprises a mixture of
30 independent nucleic acids that originated from different sources, such as combining a preparation of mouse nucleic acid with a preparation of human nucleic acid or isolating

nucleic acid from a hybrid cell where chromosomes from the various types organisms remain autonomous.

This mixed population of nucleic acids also includes nucleic acids that are themselves nucleic acids that originated from one source contiguous with nucleic acid originating from another source. This "hybrid" nucleic acid, for example, may comprise a nucleic acid that was formed by combining nucleic acids from one source with nucleic acid from another source to form nucleic acid molecules that are hybrids of the two different nucleic acids. These hybrids can comprise, for example, nucleic acid from one organism combined with nucleic acid from another organism wherein the nucleic acids from the two sources are now part of a same molecule. Yeast artificial chromosomes previously formed from hybrid cell lines, human-hamster cell lines for example, may contain nucleic acids unique to hamster and nucleic acids unique to human within the same nucleic acid molecule; the hybrid Yeast artificial chromosome. One skilled in the art will readily appreciate the number of different hybrid nucleic acids that may be obtained. For example, hybrid cell lines containing hybrid chromosomes, genomic libraries, cDNA libraries, hybrid yeast artificial chromosomes, hybrid BACs, hybrid PACs, genomic or extrachromosomal nucleic acids carrying foreign nucleic acids such as viruses or transposons, and various *in vitro* constructed hybrid nucleic acids are typical examples of such hybrid nucleic acids. In a preferred embodiment, the method of making a yeast artificial chromosome using one vector comprises making a yeast artificial chromosome with a selected insert nucleic acid from a population of nucleic acids containing hybrid nucleic acids.

The methods provided by the present invention may also allow one to target a specific region of a particular chromosome. For example, where a region of a chromosome is amplified, such as with "gene puffs" the nucleic acid within that region is amplified to many-fold more copies than what is the typical copy number. The region of nucleic acid that is amplified, therefore, contains many additional copies of what previously may have been either random sequences or sequences that are either

unique or rare within a genome. These sequences can therefore be targeted by the methods of the present invention to selectively clone those amplified regions.

The present invention provides for a method of making a yeast artificial
5 chromosome with a selected insert nucleic acid using a single vector comprising a sequence which can recombine with a region of the selected nucleic acid insert. The specificity of the selection is derived from the sequence of the vector which can recombine with a region of the selected nucleic acid insert. For example, where the vector sequence comprises a sequence unique to a particular organism, a yeast artificial
10 chromosome made using that vector will selectively contain a nucleic acid insert from an organism containing a sequence which can recombine with the sequence of the vector. As described in the Example contained herein, this selection method may be used to select, or "enrich for" a particular type or species of nucleic acid from a mixed population of nucleic acids. The sequence on the vector which can recombine with a
15 region of a nucleic acid within a mixed population of nucleic acids may comprise a repeat sequence, such as an *Alu* sequence. In a preferred embodiment, the sequence on the vector can recombine with a region of a selected insert nucleic acid recombines with a repeat sequence on the selected insert nucleic acid within the mixed population of nucleic acids. There are any number of other species-specific repeat sequences,
20 such as human repeats, rodent repeats, and plant repeats, which one skilled in the art will readily appreciate may be used in the methods as provided herein to select for a particular type or species of nucleic acid. Any repeats or any other species-unique sequences may be used in the methods of the present invention to make yeast artificial chromosomes containing selected insert nucleic acids.

25

The sequence of the vector which can recombine with a region of a nucleic acid within a mixed population of nucleic acids does not have to be unique to that and only that species for that sequence on the vector to comprise a selective recombination sequence. For example, where the recombination sequence is present in more than one
30 species, one skilled in the art will readily appreciate that yeast artificial chromosomes containing a selected insert nucleic acid may be made from a mixed population of

nucleic acids so long as the nucleic acids in the mixture other than the selected nucleic acid species do not contain a substantial number of similar sequences which can recombine with the sequence of the vector. Therefore the sequence that selects for a particular species of nucleic acid only needs to be selective in the specific mixed
5 population of nucleic acids.

In a specific embodiment, the present invention provides for a method of making a yeast artificial chromosome with a selected insert nucleic acid from a mixed population of nucleic acids using one vector wherein the selected nucleic acid is for a
10 selected species type. This species type may be any nucleic acid species, such as plant nucleic acid, rodent nucleic acid, human nucleic acid, or any other nucleic acid where a nucleic acid sequence can select for that particular nucleic acid sequence. In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the selected species type is human.

15 The vector sequence, as previously discussed, may also be any size which can recombine and may be located at any position on the vector where it can recombine with a region of the nucleic acid to make a yeast artificial chromosome with a selected insert nucleic acid. Additionally, the sequence may be divergent from the sequence on the nucleic acid with which it recombines, and it can recombine with one or any
20 number of sequences within the nucleic acid.

The present invention also provides a method of making a yeast artificial chromosome with a selected insert nucleic acid wherein the mixed population of nucleic acids and the vector can be combined prior to introducing the population of
25 nucleic acids and the vectors into the yeast cells. The mixed population of nucleic acids and the vector, however, can also be sequentially added to the yeast cells. In a specific embodiment of the present invention, the vector and the nucleic acids are combined prior to introducing them into the yeast cells.

30 In another aspect, the invention provides a method of making a yeast artificial chromosome with a selected insert nucleic acid from a mixed population of nucleic

acids comprising introducing into yeast cells the mixed population of nucleic acids and
1) a first vector comprising a yeast centromere, a yeast telomere, and a first sequence
which can recombine with a region of the selected insert nucleic acid within the mixed
population of nucleic acids and 2) a second vector comprising a yeast telomere and a
5 second sequence which can recombine with a region of the selected insert nucleic acid
within the mixed population of nucleic acids, and wherein, at least one of the vectors
further comprises a selectable marker; whereby *in vivo* recombination makes the yeast
artificial chromosome with the selected insert nucleic acid.

10 As described in the Examples contained herein, this selective recombination
reaction using two vectors, each containing at least a yeast telomere, results in the
formation of a yeast artificial chromosome with at least part of one vector, and
therefore one telomere, at one end of the yeast artificial chromosome and at least part
of the other vector, and therefore the other telomere, at the other end of the yeast
15 artificial chromosome. Since the selected yeast artificial chromosomes formed by this
method each comprise a telomere at each end of the yeast artificial chromosome, these
yeast artificial chromosomes are relatively stable and resistant to end-degradation.

This method comprises a first vector comprising a yeast centromere, a yeast
20 telomere, and a first sequence which can recombine with a region of a selected insert
nucleic acid within a mixed population of nucleic acids and a second vector comprising
a yeast telomere and a second sequence which can recombine with a region of a
selected insert nucleic acid within a mixed population of nucleic acids.

25 As discussed above, the specificity of the selection is derived from the
sequences of the vector which can recombine with a region of the selected insert
nucleic acid. For example, where the vector sequences comprises a sequence unique
to a particular organism, a yeast artificial chromosome made using that vector will
selectively contain a nucleic acid insert from an organism containing a sequence which
30 can recombine with the sequences of the vector. As described in the Example
contained herein, this selection method may be used to select, or "enrich for" a

particular type or species of nucleic acid from a mixed population of nucleic acids.

In a specific embodiment, the present invention provides for a method of making a yeast artificial chromosome with a selected insert nucleic acid from a mixed
5 population of nucleic acids using two vectors wherein the selected nucleic acid is for a selected species type. This species type may be any nucleic acid species, such as plant nucleic acid, rodent nucleic acid, human nucleic acid, or any other nucleic acid where a nucleic acid sequence can select for that particular nucleic acid sequence. In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the selected species type is human.
10

Also as discussed above, the selected insert nucleic acid may be present within a population containing hybrid nucleic acids. In a preferred embodiment, the method of making a yeast artificial chromosome using two vectors comprises making a yeast artificial chromosome with a selected insert nucleic acid from a population of nucleic
15 acids containing hybrid nucleic acids.

The vector sequences, as previously discussed, may also be any size which can recombine and may be located at any position on the vectors where they can recombine with a region of the nucleic acid to make a yeast artificial chromosome with a selected
20 insert nucleic acid. Additionally, the sequences may divergent from the sequence on the nucleic acid with which they recombine, and they can recombine with one or any number of sequences within the nucleic acid.

The first sequence and the second sequence may comprise repeat sequences,
25 such as an *Alu* repeat, an L1 element, or any other repeat sequence where these first and second sequences can recombine with a repeat sequence on the nucleic acid within the mixed population of nucleic acids. In one embodiment, the first sequence which can recombine with a region of the selected nucleic acid recombines with a repeat sequence on the selected insert nucleic acid within the mixed population of nucleic
30 acids. In another embodiment, the second sequence which can recombine with a region of the selected nucleic acid recombines with a repeat sequence on the selected

insert nucleic acid within the mixed population of nucleic acids. In yet another embodiment, the first sequence and the second sequence which can recombine with a region of the selected nucleic acid both recombine with a repeat sequence on the selected insert nucleic acid within the mixed population of nucleic acids.

5

The first sequence which can recombine with a region of a selected insert nucleic acid and the second sequence which can recombine with a region of a selected insert nucleic acid may comprise the same sequence, or those sequences can be different. For example, the first sequence may comprise an *Alu* repeat and the second sequence may comprise an L1 element. Alternatively, the first sequence may comprise an *Alu* repeat and the second sequence may also comprise an *Alu* repeat, but these two repeats may be divergent from one another. This divergence also encompasses a sequence, such as a repeat on one vector and a similar repeat on the second vector, where one of the repeats comprises a fragment of the other repeat. For example, one sequence can comprise a total *Alu* repeat where the other sequence comprises only part of the same repeat. As discussed above, it is widely known in the art that repeats such as *Alu* repeats exhibit divergence within the same family of repeats and therefore both sequences may be *Alu* repeats, but those sequences may be divergent from one another.

20

The present invention provides a method of making a yeast artificial chromosome with a selected insert nucleic acid wherein the mixed population of nucleic acids and the vectors can be combined prior to introducing the population of nucleic acids and the vectors into the yeast cells. The mixed population of nucleic acids and the vectors, however, can be combined prior to introducing the mixed population of nucleic acids and the vectors into the yeast cells, or the nucleic acids and the vectors can be sequentially added to the yeast cells. In a specific embodiment of the present invention, the vectors and the mixed population of nucleic acids are combined prior to introducing them into the yeast cells.

30

The method of making a yeast artificial chromosome containing a selected insert nucleic acid using two vectors as provided by the present invention comprises a first vector comprising a yeast centromere, a selectable marker, a yeast telomere, and a sequence which can recombine with a selected insert nucleic acid within a mixed
5 population of nucleic acids and a second vector comprising a yeast telomere and a second sequence which can recombine with a selected insert nucleic acid within the mixed population of nucleic acids. In one embodiment, the vectors further comprise a yeast origin of replication, such as an ARS, so that nucleic acids within the population of nucleic acids may be targeted for yeast artificial chromosome construction
10 independent of whether those nucleic acids contain an ARS or a region that can function as an ARS. Where the vector further comprises a yeast origin of replication, the yeast artificial chromosome containing a specific insert nucleic acid made using the methods of the present invention can replicate in yeast cells whether or not the selected nucleic acid forming the remainder of the yeast artificial chromosome contains an
15 origin of replication.

This present invention also comprises a method of forming a yeast artificial chromosome containing a selected insert nucleic acid using two vectors where the first sequence which can recombine with a region of a selected insert nucleic acid and the
20 second sequence which can recombine with a region of a selected insert nucleic acid are divergent from the sequence with which they recombine. Therefore the sequences on the vectors are not limited to recombination with a completely homologous sequence on the nucleic acid within a population of nucleic acids. As discussed above, it is well known in the art that recombination in yeast does not require complete
25 homology between the recombining sequences. The methods of the present invention, therefore, are not limited to a specific percent homology between the sequence(s) on the vector(s) and a region of a nucleic acid.

The first sequence which can recombine with a region of a selected nucleic acid
30 and the second sequence which can recombine with a region of a selected nucleic acid may comprise the same sequence, or those sequences can be different. For example,

the first sequence may comprise an *Alu* repeat and the second sequence may comprise an L1 element. Alternatively, the first sequence may comprise an *Alu* repeat and the second sequence may also comprise an *Alu* repeat, but these two repeats may be divergent from one another. This divergence also encompasses a sequence, such as a repeat on one vector and a similar repeat on the second vector, where one of the repeats comprises a fragment of the other repeat. For example, one sequence can comprise a total *Alu* repeat where the other sequence comprises only part of the same repeat. As discussed above, it is widely known in the art that repeats such as *Alu* repeats exhibit divergence within the same family of repeats and therefore both sequences may be *Alu* repeats, but those sequences may be divergent from one another.

The first sequence and the second sequence may also comprise sequences other than repeat sequences, or the two sequences may be a combination of a repeat sequence and a non-repeat sequence. One skilled in the art will readily appreciate the number of combinations of sequences that may be used for either the first sequence or the second sequence in order to practice the methods of the present invention.

As described above, the sizes of the first sequence and the second sequence are also variable. Using the methods and description of the methods as contained herein, one skilled in the art can readily determine the sizes of the first and second sequences in order to maximize the efficiency of their particular system.

In another specific embodiment, either the first vector or the second vector further comprises a counter-selectable marker between the two sequences which can recombine with a region of the selected nucleic acid. This counter-selectable marker, therefore, may be located on either the first vector or the second vector. As discussed above, the counter-selectable marker is preferably removed from the vector or inactivated as a result of the recombination. This counter-selectable marker is preferably adjacent to the sequence on the vector which can recombine with a region of a nucleic acid within a population of nucleic acids. This counter-selectable marker,

however, can be located on the vector at any position between the two sequences which can recombine which allows its removal, or its inactivation, as a result of recombination.

5 In another aspect, the invention provides a method of making a circular yeast artificial chromosome with a selected insert nucleic from a mixed population of nucleic acids comprising introducing into yeast cells the mixed population of nucleic acids and a vector, wherein the vector comprises a yeast centromere, a selectable marker and at least two sequences which can recombine with a region of the selected insert nucleic
10 acid within the mixed population of nucleic acids; whereby *in vivo* recombination makes the circular yeast artificial chromosome with the selected insert nucleic acid.

 This method comprises a vector comprising a yeast centromere, a selectable marker, and at least two sequences which can recombine with a region of a selected
15 insert nucleic acid within a mixed population of nucleic acids.

 As discussed above, the specificity of the selection is derived from the sequences of the vector which can recombine with a region of the selected insert nucleic acid. For example, where the vector sequences comprises a sequence unique
20 to a particular organism, a yeast artificial chromosome made using that vector will selectively contain a nucleic acid insert from an organism containing a sequence which can recombine with the sequences of the vector. As described in the Example contained herein, this selection method may be used to select, or "enrich for" a particular type or species of nucleic acid from a mixed population of nucleic acids.

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 In a specific embodiment, the present invention provides for a method of making a circular yeast artificial chromosome with a selected insert nucleic acid from a mixed population of nucleic acids wherein the selected nucleic acid is for a selected species type. This species type may be any nucleic acid species, such as plant nucleic
30 acid, rodent nucleic acid, human nucleic acid, or any other nucleic acid where a nucleic

acid sequence can select for that particular nucleic acid sequence. In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the selected species type is human.

Also as discussed above, the selected insert nucleic acid may be present within
5 a population containing hybrid nucleic acids. In a preferred embodiment, the method of making a circular yeast artificial chromosome using a vector containing two sequences which can recombine with a region of a selected insert nucleic acid comprises making a circular yeast artificial chromosome with a selected insert nucleic acid from a population of nucleic acids containing hybrid nucleic acids.

10

The sequences which can recombine with a region of a selected nucleic acid within a mixed population of nucleic acids, as previously discussed, may comprise the same sequences, or these sequences may be different. Again, where the sequences are either the same or where they are different, two or more identical or different
15 sequences may be generated by division of a single repeat. For example, a circular plasmid may contain a sequence, such as a single *Alu* repeat, which when digested with a restriction enzyme, results in a linear plasmid with parts of that repeat at each end. An example of this method of generating more than one part of an *Alu* repeat from a larger *Alu* repeat is described in the Examples contained herein.

20

The sequences on the vector which can recombine with a region of a selected nucleic acid may comprise a repeat sequence, such as an *Alu* repeat, a L1 element, or any other repeat sequence where these sequences can recombine with a repeat sequence on the selected nucleic acid within the mixed population of nucleic acids.

25

These sequences may comprise any sequence which can recombine with a region of a selected nucleic acid. Therefore one sequence may comprise a repeat sequence and the remaining sequences may comprise non-repeat sequences, or all sequences may comprise non-repeat sequences, or any other combinations thereof.

30

These sequences, as previously discussed, may also be any size which can recombine and they may be located at any position on the vector where they can recombine with a region of the selected nucleic acid to make a circular yeast artificial chromosome with a selected insert nucleic acid. Additionally, these sequences may
5 divergent from the sequences on the selected nucleic acid with which they recombine, and they can recombine with one or any number of sequences within the selected nucleic acid.

In a specific embodiment, the present invention provides a method of making a
10 circular yeast artificial chromosome with a selected insert nucleic acid using one vector where that vector further comprises a yeast origin of replication, such as an ARS, so that selected nucleic acids within the mixed population of nucleic acids may be targeted for circular yeast artificial chromosome construction independent of whether those selected nucleic acids contain an ARS or a region that can function as an ARS. Where
15 the vector further comprises a yeast origin of replication, the circular yeast artificial chromosome made using the methods of the present invention can replicate in yeast cells whether or not the selected nucleic acid forming the remainder of the yeast artificial chromosome contains an origin of replication.

20 In another specific embodiment, the present invention provides a method of making a circular yeast artificial chromosome with a selected insert nucleic acid using a vector which further comprises a counter-selectable marker. This counter-selectable marker, as discussed above, allows one to determine whether recombination between the vector and a selected nucleic acid within a mixed population of nucleic acids has
25 occurred, generally by limiting the growth of the vector within the yeast cells where recombination has not occurred. The counter-selectable marker, therefore, is preferably removed from the vector or inactivated as a result of the recombination. This counter-selectable marker is preferably adjacent to a sequence on the vector which can recombine with a region of a selected nucleic acid within a mixed population
30 of nucleic acids. This counter-selectable marker, however, can be located on the

vector at any position which allows its removal, or its inactivation, as a result of recombination.

The present invention provides a method of making a circular yeast artificial
5 chromosome with a selected insert nucleic acid wherein the mixed population of
nucleic acids and the vector can be combined prior to introducing the mixed population
of nucleic acids and the vector into the yeast cells. The mixed population of nucleic
acids and the vector, however, can be combined prior to introducing the mixed
10 population of nucleic acids and the vector into the yeast cells, or the nucleic acids and
the vector can be sequentially added to the yeast cells. In a specific embodiment of the
present invention, the vector and the nucleic acids are combined prior to introducing
them into the yeast cells.

In another aspect, the invention provides a method of cloning a selected nucleic
15 acid from a population of nucleic acids into a vector comprising introducing into yeast
cells a population of nucleic acids and the vector, wherein the vector comprises a
specific sequence which can recombine with a region of the selected nucleic acid within
the population of nucleic acids and a non-specific sequence which can recombine with
a region of the selected nucleic acid within the population of nucleic acids; whereby *in*
20 *vivo* recombination makes a clone of the selected nucleic acid within the vector.

As demonstrated in the Examples contained herein, this method comprises
introducing into yeast a cloning vector comprising a specific sequence which can
recombine with a region of a selected nucleic acid and a non-specific sequence which
25 can recombine with a region of the selected nucleic acid.

The specific sequence which can recombine with a region of a selected nucleic
acid may comprise a known sequence, for example. There a vast number of cDNAs
cloned to date where the sequence information is limited to the 3' region of the gene.
30 Using sequence information such as this, one skilled in the art can readily determine a
sequence which is specific for a selected nucleic acid. In one embodiment, the method

may be used to clone a specific cDNA. In another embodiment, the method of cloning a selected nucleic acid comprises the recombination of the specific sequence of the vector with a known encoded 3' sequence of the selected nucleic acid.

5 The non-specific sequence which can recombine with a region of a selected nucleic acid may comprise a sequence which may be known, but not specific for a particular selected nucleic acid. For example, a 5' consensus sequence such as Kozak sequences (Kozak, M. *Cell* 44:283 (1986) and *Nucl. Acids Res.* 15:8125-8148 (1987)) is an example of a non-specific region which may be used as a site of recombination.

10 Alternatively, a non-specific sequence such as a 5'-end adaptor may be added at or near the 5'-end of these nucleic acids to provide a site for recombination. The known sequence identity at the 3'-end sequence then provides the specificity for the recombination reaction and the recombination at the 5'-end aids in the circularization of the recombination product. The Examples contained herein demonstrates the

15 recombination of a vector and a nucleic acid using this general procedure. In another specific embodiment, the method of cloning a selected nucleic acid comprises the recombination of the non-specific sequence of the vector with a 5' consensus sequence of the selected nucleic acid.

20 In yet another embodiment, the method for cloning a selected nucleic acid from a population of nucleic acids into a vector further comprises a counter-selectable marker between the specific sequence on the vector and the non-specific sequence on the vector. This counter-selectable marker, as discussed above, facilitates the identification and isolation of vectors containing a nucleic acid insert between the

25 specific sequence and the non-specific sequence as a result of a recombination reaction, since the counter-selectable marker is typically removed from the vector during the recombination reaction or inactivated as a result of the recombination reaction.

 The population of nucleic acids containing a selected nucleic acid also

30 comprises a mixed population of nucleic acids which may contain hybrid nucleic acid molecules. In a specific embodiment, the selected nucleic acid is selected from a

population of nucleic acids containing hybrid nucleic acids. This method, therefore, may be used to selectively clone a specific nucleic acid or a specific nucleic acid species from a population of mixed nucleic acids and a population of hybrid nucleic acids, or both.

5

The selected nucleic acid may be cloned into the vector in such a manner that the selected nucleic acid insert is operatively linked to a promoter within the vector. This operative promoter, therefore, can initiate and sustain expression of the selected nucleic acid insert. Where the selected nucleic acid insert encodes a protein or polypeptide, the expression of that protein or polypeptide will allow the generation of other reagents related to the selected nucleic acid insert. For example, the protein or polypeptide or fragments of the protein or polypeptide may be used to generate antibodies to the protein or polypeptide which themselves may be used in techniques to isolate the same protein or polypeptide from cells typically expressing that protein or polypeptide.

The specific promoter which is operatively linked to the selected nucleic acid comprises any type of promoter that may be used to express the insert nucleic acid. For example, the promoter may be a eukaryotic promoter, a prokaryotic promoter, or a viral promoter. Specifically, the promoter may be a human promoter, a yeast promoter, an *E. coli* promoter, or any promoter that will express the selected nucleic acid insert under the specific conditions of the expression system.

The vector used to clone a selected nucleic acid may further comprise an origin or replication, as discussed above. In one embodiment, the specific origin of replication comprises a high copy origin of replication, such as the 2 μ origin of replication without a centromere. Alternatively, the vector may comprise a low copy origin or replication and a centromere.

In another embodiment, the selected nucleic acids are members of the same family. This "family" represents a group of genes which are derived by duplication and

variation from a common ancestral gene, that are located on the same chromosome or on different chromosomes. Examples of families of genes are the histone genes, the immunoglobulin genes, and the hemoglobin genes. The method described herein may be used to clone, and therefore isolate members of a particular gene family based on
5 their sequence homology.

In yet another aspect, the invention provides for the vectors used in the methods of the invention. For example, the invention provides for a vector comprising a yeast centromere, a selectable marker, a yeast telomere, and a non-yeast sequence
10 which can recombine with a region of a non-yeast nucleic acid within a population of nucleic acids to form a yeast artificial chromosome. The specific sequence of the non-yeast sequence on the vector, may of course vary as discussed above. This sequence may be designed from human sequences, for example, where the vector is designed to be used in a method of constructing a yeast artificial chromosome where the insert
15 nucleic acid is preferably human nucleic acid. Alternatively, the non-yeast sequences on the vector may be designed to select a particular nucleic acid from a mixed population of nucleic acids, such as in construction of a yeast artificial chromosome specific for a particular species of nucleic acid from a hybrid cell. One skilled in the art will readily appreciate that the non-yeast sequence on the vector can be designed from
20 and select for any number of nucleic acids from any number of sources.

In one embodiment, the vector comprises a non-yeast sequence which can recombine with a repeat sequence. As discussed, the repeat sequence can be any of a number of repeat sequences. This repeat sequence preferably is relatively unique to a
25 species of nucleic acid such that recombination between the vector non-yeast repeat and a repeat on a nucleic acid within a population of nucleic acids may yield a yeast artificial chromosome containing the specific species of nucleic acid. Also, as discussed above, the particular repeat does not necessarily have to be unique to a particular species, but it would be advantageous if the repeat were relatively unique to
30 a particular species of nucleic acid within a specific population, such as a mixed

population of nucleic acids, or relatively unique within the recombination reaction system.

In another embodiment, the vector further comprises a yeast origin of replication. This origin of replication may comprise a low copy origin, a high copy origin, or both. In another embodiment, the vector further comprises a counter selectable marker.

The present invention also provides a kit comprising a first vector comprising a yeast centromere, a selectable marker, a yeast telomere, and a non-yeast sequence which can recombine with a region of a non-yeast nucleic acid within a population of nucleic acids and a second vector comprising a yeast telomere and a non-yeast sequence which can recombine with a region of a non-yeast nucleic acid within a population of nucleic acids. When these two vectors are used in conjunction in a transformation-associated recombination-based method of making a yeast artificial chromosome, the resulting chromosome contains the first vector at one end of the chromosome and the second vector at the other end of the chromosome

The non-yeast sequence on the second vector may further comprise a sequence which can recombine with a non-yeast repeat sequence, as discussed above. The second vector may also further comprise a yeast origin of replication, a counter-selectable marker, and a selectable marker.

In yet another aspect, the invention provides a vector comprising a yeast centromere, a selectable marker, and at least two non-yeast sequences which can recombine with a region of a non-yeast nucleic acid. Also as discussed above, the two non-yeast sequences may comprise unique sequences, relatively unique sequences, or random sequences. The two non-yeast sequences are not restricted to a particular size or location on the vector and these sequences may be the same or different.

The invention also provides for a vector comprising a yeast centromere, a selectable marker, and at least two non-yeast sequences, and further comprising a yeast origin of replication. The invention also provides for a vector comprising a yeast centromere, a selectable marker, and at least two non-yeast sequences, and further
5 comprising a counter selectable marker.

In yet another aspect, the invention provides for the product made by the methods of the invention. Particularly provided by the invention is a yeast artificial chromosome comprising a non-yeast nucleic acid having a non-yeast repeat sequence
10 at a terminus of the non-yeast nucleic acid. This yeast artificial chromosome may be made using a method of the present invention which utilizes a single vector having a non-yeast sequence which can recombine with a nucleic acid sequence within a population of nucleic acids.

15 This yeast artificial chromosome may be made by the disclosed techniques where the non-yeast sequence on the vector which recombines with a nucleic acid within a population of nucleic acids is a repeat sequence. As demonstrated in the Examples contained herein, the yeast artificial chromosomes made in this manner may be made from a mixed population of nucleic acids and selectively contain nucleic acid
20 from a selected nucleic acid species within that mixed population.

The invention also provides for a yeast artificial chromosome constructed by the methods disclosed herein, where the yeast artificial chromosome contains a non-yeast repeat sequence at both termini of the chromosome. The method of constructing
25 or of selecting for a yeast artificial chromosome using two vectors, each comprising a repeat sequence which can recombine with a region of a nucleic acid or a region of a selected nucleic acid within a population of nucleic acids or a mixed population of nucleic acids may produce a yeast artificial chromosome having a non-yeast repeat sequence adjacent to both termini of the chromosome.

30

The invention also provides a method of cloning a nucleic acid into a vector comprising introducing into prokaryotic cells a population of nucleic acids and the vector, wherein the vector comprises a selectable marker, a counter-selectable marker, and at least two sequences which can recombine with a region of a nucleic acid within the population of nucleic acids; whereby *in vivo* recombination makes the clone of the nucleic acid within the vector.

In one embodiment, the prokaryotic cells are *E. coli* cells.

In another embodiment, the *E. coli* cells are a mismatch-repair deficient strain of *E. coli*.

Throughout this application, various publications are referenced. The disclosures of these publications in their entireties are hereby incorporated by reference into this application in order to more fully describe the state of the art to which this invention pertains.

EXAMPLE 1

LINEAR TAR CLONING

Materials and Methods

TAR-cloning vectors

The vectors pVC1 (*Alu-CEN6-HIS3-TEL*), pVC3 (*LINE-CEN6-HIS3-TEL*), pVL13 (*Alu-ARSH4-TRP1-TEL*) and pVL27 (*Alu-URA3-TEL*) were used. To construct the pVC1 vector, a 0.4 kb *NruI* fragment containing a *CEN6* sequence from the plasmid pMACS4 (provided by P. Philippsen) was cloned into the *NotI* site of plasmid pBP109 (Pavan, et al., (1991) *Gene* 106, 125-127.). When cut with *SalI*, the plasmid pVC1 has an *Alu* sequence (BLUR13) at one end and a telomeric sequence at the other end. Digestion of pVC1 with *XhoI* yields a linear molecule with a 300 bp tail

of nonhomologous DNA following the *Alu*; digestion with *Bam*HI leaves no *Alu*. To develop pVC3 a *Bam*HI *Alu*-containing fragment was replaced with a 2.9 kb *Bam*HI *LINE1.1* fragment from pBP111(Pavan, et al., (1991) *Gene* **106**, 125-127.) containing most of the *LINE* ORF2. Cutting with *Sal*I yields a linear molecules

5 bounded by a *LINE* and telomere sequence. An acentric *ARS* containing vector pVL13 was constructed by cloning a 0.8 kb *Not*I-fragment containing two copies of the *Alu* sequence (BLUR8) from the plasmid pBP63A (Pavan, et al., (1990) *Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. USA* **87**, 1300-1304.) into a unique *Not*I site of pJS98 (Shero, et al., (1991) *Genomics* **10**, 505-508.). When cut with *Nru*I, the plasmid has an *Alu* sequence at

10 one end and a telomeric sequence at the other end. The vector pVL27 was constructed by ligating the 2.2 kb *Pvu*I fragment from pBP109 with a 2.5 kb *Pvu*I fragment from pRS306 (Sikorski, et al., (1989) *Genetics* **122**, 19-27.). The plasmid was cut with *Hind*III to yields a molecule bounded by an *Alu* and telomere sequence.

15 Yeast strains and mammalian cell lines

Saccharomyces cerevisiae strain YPH857 with the *HIS3* gene deleted (*MAT* α , *his3- Δ 200*, *trp1- Δ 1*, *ura3-52*, *leu2- Δ 1*, *lys2-801*, *ade2-101*) was used (Kouprina, et al., (1994) *Genomics* **21**, 7-17.). Human (HL-60), hamster (CHOK1), and mouse (NIH3T3) cells were obtained from the University of North Carolina Tissue Culture

20 Facility. Mouse/human monochromosomal somatic cell hybrid CY18 with human chromosome 16 was provided by L. Deaven, Los Alamos National Laboratory. Yeast cells were grown on complete medium (YPD) or synthetic standard selective media (Kouprina, et al., (1994) *Genomics* **21**, 7-17.).

25 Yeast transformation

A protocol for spheroplasting cells was used that results in efficient transformation (Larionov, et al., (1994) *Nucleic Acids Res.* **22**, 4154-4161.). Agarose plugs (100 μ l) containing approximately 1 μ g of gently prepared human or rodent DNAs were used for transformation (Larin, et al., (1993) in *YAC Libraries*, eds. Nelson, D. L. & Brownstein B. H. (N Y), Vol. 3, pp. 43-56). Linearized vector(s) (1

30

µg) was added to DNA-containing plugs after treating with agarase and presented to spheroplasts.

Identification of YAC clones

- 5 Colony hybridization was carried out to identify clones containing human YACs among yeast transformants generated from monochromosomal somatic cell hybrid DNA as described (Abidi, et al., (1990) *Genomics* 7, 363-376.). Human and mouse probe were labeled by random priming. When a genomic human DNA probe was used, unlabeled BLUR13 *Alu* fragment (10 µg/ reaction) and unlabeled mouse
- 10 CotI DNA (100 µg/reaction) was added to the hybridization solution to suppress the hybridization of repetitive sequences. When a mouse DNA probe (B₂ or CotI mouse DNA) was used, unlabeled human CotI DNA (100 µg/reaction) was added to the hybridization solution.

15 Preparation of chromosomal size DNAs from yeast

- Low-melting-point agarose plugs were prepared from either primary transformants or subclones (Larionov, et al., (1994) *Nucleic Acids Res.* 22, 4154-4161.). Large DNAs were separated using Transverse Alternating Field Electrophoresis (TAFE) (Carle, et al., (1984) *Nucleic Acids Res.* 12, 5647-5664.).
- 20 YACs were identified with randomly primed human or mouse genomic DNAs using conditions described above for colony hybridization.

Analysis of YAC propagation during mitotic growth

- Loss of YACs was determined by measuring loss of the centromere-linked
- 25 *HIS3* marker, as previously described (Kouprina, et al., (1994) *Genomics* 21, 7-17.) in primary transformants and in derived subclones. Briefly, colonies were streaked to nonselective medium and the frequency of His⁺ colonies was determined by replica-plating.

30

Inter-*Alu* PCR and *Alu* profiles of YACs

Inter-*Alu* PCR was carried out in a 50 µl final volume containing 1 µg of total yeast DNA isolated from His⁺ transformants as previously described (Nelson, et al., (1989) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* **86**, 6686-6690.). The *Alu* PCR primer sequences
5 were either 5'GGTGGCTCACGCCTGTAATCCCAGCACTTTGGGAGGCCGA 3'
(SEQ ID NO:1) or
5'GGAGGCTGAGGCAGGAGAATCGCTTGAACCCGGGAGGCGG3' (SEQ ID
NO:2).

To identify fragments containing *Alu* sequences (*Alu* profiles), 1 µg of total yeast DNA
10 was digested to completion with *TaqI*. Samples were run by gel electrophoresis,
transferred to a nylon membrane, and hybridized to a BLUR13 *Alu* probe. Total yeast
DNA for PCR analysis and *Alu* profiles was extracted from 5-ml cultures using
standard methods.

FISH analysis

Clones containing human DNA derived from the chromosome 16 hybrid cell
line were biotinylated by nick translation in the presence of biotin-14-dATP using the
BioNick Kit (GIBCO BRL). Fluorescence *in situ* hybridization (FISH) was performed
as previously described (Korenberg, et al., (1995) *Cytogenet. & Cell Genetics* **69**, 196-
20 200.). To distinguish precisely the chromosome sub-bands, a reverse banding
technique was employed using chromomycin A3 and distamycin A double staining
(Korenberg, et al., (1995) *Cytogenet. & Cell Genetics* **69**, 196-200..

RESULTS

25

TAR-Cloning of Human DNAs Using Two Vectors

The TAR-method for cloning human DNAs as YACs is based on our idea that
YACs can be generated *in vivo* by recombination between human DNA and plasmids
that contain human DNA repeats such as an *Alu* or *LINE* (Fig. 1). While repeats in
30 the human genome are diverged, recombination in yeast can occur between
homologous as well as diverged sequences during transformation (Mezard, et al.,

(1992) *Cell* 70, 659-670 and Priebe, et al., (1994) *Mol. Cell. Biol.* 14, 4802-4814.). The TAR-cloning was investigated using a mixture of human DNA and two plasmids with terminal *Alu* sequences; one contained an origin of replication (*ARS*) and the other had a yeast centromere sequence to assure proper segregation. Human DNA and linearized plasmids pVC1 (*Alu-HIS3-CEN6-TEL*) and pVL13 (*Alu-TRP1-ARSH4-TEL*) were mixed and presented to spheroplasts. Between 800 and 2,000 His⁺ transformants were typically obtained using a mixture containing 1 µg of each plasmid and 1 µg of cellular DNA. Approximately 60% of the transformants also contained the unselected *TRP1* marker, which in all cases (110 examined) was linked to *HIS3* i.e., they were lost simultaneously). Of the His⁺Trp⁺ transformants, one-third (33/110) contained new chromosomal size (from 70 kb to over 600 kb) molecules that hybridized with human DNA. However, most of the His⁺Trp⁺ transformants lacked human DNA but contained small circular or linear molecules which probably arose by direct interaction between the vectors.

In order to avoid the high background of clones containing only plasmid, TAR-cloning with vectors lacking an *ARS* was investigated, since YAC replication might be initiated at the frequent *ARS*-related sequences in human DNAs (Stinchomb, et al., (1980) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 77, 4559-4563 and Aguinaga, et al., (1987) *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun.* 144, 1018-1024.). Human DNA and linearized forms of pVC1 (*Alu-HIS3-CEN6-TEL*) and pVL27 (*Alu-URA3-TEL*) were mixed and presented to spheroplasts. Between 300 and 1,000 His⁺ transformants were typically obtained using a mixture containing 1 µg of each plasmid and 1 µg of cellular DNA (Table 1). Approximately 50% of His⁺ transformants contained the unselected *URA3* plasmid marker. In 260 His⁺ Ura⁺ transformants the *HIS3* and *URA3* markers were linked. All His⁺Ura⁺ transformants (55/55) contained DNA which hybridized with human DNA. New chromosomal size molecules were identified that varied from 70 kb to over 600 kb, similar to YACs obtained when one vector had an *ARS*. About 65% of His⁺ Ura⁺ transformants (26/40) produced multiple inter-*Alu* PCR products. The *Alu* profiles of the TAR-generated YACs (Fig. 2) are typical of YACs containing human DNA inserts. Thus, the use of vectors lacking an *ARS* eliminated the plasmid

background and increased the yield of doubly-marked YACs as compared to TAR-cloning with vectors containing an *ARS*.

Approximately 50% of the His⁺ transformants did not contain the unselected
5 plasmid pVL27 marker *URA3*; however, almost all the transformants examined (28/30)
also contained human YACs. These singly-marked YACs apparently acquired
telomeres utilizing internal yeast telomere-like sequences present in the human genome
(see below).

10 **TAR-Cloning with One Vector**

Based on the high yield of YACs containing only one telomere marker, the
TAR-cloning of human DNA using only one vector lacking an *ARS* was examined.
Transformation of yeast spheroplasts by a mixture of a linearized vector containing
Alu) pVC1) or *LINE*) pVC3) plus an equal amount of human DNA yielded a high level
15 of transformants (Table 1). Few transformants were obtained with plasmid only and
they arose by rare integration of the plasmid into yeast chromosomes (see below). A
high frequency of transformation does not require that the *Alu* be at the end of the
vector. Comparable levels of transformation were observed when the *Alu* was 300 bp
from the end (the pVC1 plasmid was linearized by *SaII*- and *XhoI*). Transformation
20 was low and comparable to that when human DNA was not included if the plasmid
lacked an *Alu* (digestion with *BamHI*). The TAR-cloning was specific, since
transformation was approximately 100-fold lower when mouse or hamster DNA was
used instead of human DNA (Table 1).

25 The high level of transformation observed with human DNA plus either pVC1
or pVC3 was primarily due to the production of YACs. Among 100 transformants
analyzed, all contained new chromosomal size DNA molecules hybridizing with human
DNA probe. Nearly 80% (82/100) of the transformants exhibited strong *Alu*-PCR
bands. The size distribution of YACs was comparable to that for YACs isolated with
30 two vectors (Fig. 3). Four of the YACs were circular and were retained in the wells.

Approximately 35% of the primary transformant colonies contained more than one YAC. Such clones are frequently observed in YAC libraries developed using standard methods (Franke, et al., (1994) *Genomics* 21, 58-62.) and could result from co-transformation. When six of these colonies were subcloned, most of the subclones
5 contained only one stable band.

In most primary transformant colonies obtained with a single vector the YACs were unstable (>70% of cells in the colony lacked the YAC marker), whereas the YACs were stable in most transformants obtained with two vectors (<10% of
10 cells in a colony lacked the YAC markers). Both types of YACs were stable in subclones of transformants. These results are consistent with a requirement for *de novo* generation of a telomere at the distal end (i.e., lacking the vector).

15 **Specific TAR-Cloning of Human DNA from a Mouse/Human Monochromosomal Cell Line**

Since high levels of transformation were accomplished with the *Alu*-containing vector only when human DNA was present (Table 1), we investigated the cloning of human DNAs from a mouse/human monochromosomal cell line CY18 that carries a single human chromosome 16. Total genomic DNA was prepared as described above
20 and transformed along with linearized pVC1 plasmid. The efficiency of transformation was always greater than that observed with mouse DNA only (Table 1). The transformants (from 5 independent transformations) were initially analyzed in two ways, by inter-*Alu* PCR or colony hybridization with human and mouse probes. Nearly 20% (15/79) of the His⁺ transformants contained human DNA inserts, based on inter-
25 *Alu* PCR analysis. This was higher than observed with hybridization where 12% (42/350) hybridized to the human probe, presumably due to differences in sensitivity of the methods. Only 4% of colonies hybridized to the mouse probe and there were no transformants that could hybridize to both probes, indicating few, if any, chimeras. About three-quarters of the His⁺ transformants lacked mammalian DNA and were
30 likely due to illegitimate recombination with yeast chromosomes (see Discussion). All the clones containing human DNAs (based on hybridization with human DNA probe,

Alu-profiles and inter *Alu*-PCR) were examined using TAFE analysis and were found to contain additional chromosome size bands, from 70 to greater than 600 kb (Fig. 4).

The cytogenetic positions of 15 among 17 YAC DNAs tested were located on chromosome 16 by FISH analysis and are presented in Fig. 5. Four out of the 15 YACs exhibited additional signals on chromosome 16. Some of these may be explained by the presence of chromosome-specific repeats, as has been previously described for cloned DNAs derived from this chromosome (Stallings, et al., *Genomics* 13, 332-338). For 9 of the YACs, signals were also detected on the short arm of the acrocentric chromosomes 13, 14, 15, 21 and 22, the most common of which was chromosome 21p. These are the well-described locations of simple repeats. It is of interest that many cloned DNAs are distributed to multiple sites in the short arm and, in addition, others are clustered at the junction of the heterochromatin and euchromatin in the pericentromeric region of the long arm.

15

Thus, human DNA can be efficiently cloned from hybrid cells. Since human DNA was only ~3% of the total and the final ratio of human to mouse YACs was at least 3 : 1 (based on colony hybridization results), there was a greater than 75-fold enrichment of human DNA during TAR-cloning.

20

DISCUSSION

We have described a new method for cloning human DNAs which does not require *in vitro* enzymatic treatment of the DNAs. The development of YACs can be accomplished using the intracellular enzymatic machinery that mediates efficient intermolecular recombination between homologous and diverged DNAs in yeast during transformation. That homology-driven recombination is the mechanism for YAC generation was demonstrated by the specificity of the bimolecular interaction. Large numbers of YAC clones were isolated when *Alu*-based plasmid was co-transformed with human DNA, whereas there were no YAC clones when the plasmid lacked a human repeat or when rodent instead of human DNA was used (Table 1).

30

The greatest yield of YACs (nearly 100%) was observed when a pair of TAR vectors was used that lacked an *ARS* sequence. The efficient generation of YACs using a vector lacking an *ARS* indicates that there are frequent endogenous *ARS*-like elements (Stinchomb, et al., (1980) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 77, 4559-4563 and
5 Aguinaga, et al., (1987) *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun.* 144, 1018-1024.) that enable replication of YACs in yeast cells. Surprisingly, human DNA was also efficiently cloned using only one TAR-vector suggesting that yeast telomere-like elements, as well as *ARS*-like sequences, are frequent in human genome. Possibly, there is *de novo* generation of telomeres at frequently repeated) $(CA)_n$ sequences ($\sim 10^5$
10 copies) in the human genome (Hamada, et al., (1982) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 79, 6465-6469).

While recombination during transformation can provide the means for cloning large molecules, we propose that the recombination is nonrandom. Given that the
15 average distance between *Alu*'s is 2-3 kb, it is surprising that nearly half of the YACs were greater than 200 kb. It is possible that recombination interactions with molecules having double-strand breaks occurs preferentially at homologous sequences near broken ends. This is supported by the observation that the frequency of TAR between a human YAC and an *Alu*-containing telomeric vector is
20 greatly increased when a YAC is broken (Larionov, et al., (1994) *Nucleic Acids Res.* 22, 4154-4161).

The TAR method for cloning genomic fragments has many utilities. The approach can be extended to the isolation of any DNA in which there are frequent
25 repeats. For example, we have found that mouse DNA can be cloned by the TAR-method using a 150 bp mouse-specific B_2 repeat. We note that use of this approach eliminates *in vitro* ligation as a potential source of chimeras. Furthermore, since chimeras can arise by recombination between co-penetrating molecules (Wada, et al., (1994) *Nucleic Acids Res.* 22, 1561-1554 and Larionov, et al., (1994) *Nucleic Acids*
30 *Res.* 22, 4154-4161) it should be possible to decrease chimeras by dilution of human DNA with nonhomologous DNA during TAR cloning.

Except for flow-sorted chromosomes (McCormick, et al., (1993) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* **90**, 1063-1067), the opportunities to isolate specific human chromosomal DNAs up to now have been limited. An important application of TAR-cloning is the specific and direct cloning of human chromosomes and chromosomal fragments from hybrid cell lines. We have demonstrated that the TAR-method led to more than a 75-fold enrichment in the isolation of human DNA from a mouse/human monochromosomal 16 hybrid cell line among the YACs containing mammalian DNA. There were no mouse/human chimeras. Human/human chimeras are unlikely based on previous reports with hybrid cell lines (Green, et al., (1991) *Genomics* **11**, 658-669 and Schlessinger, et al., (1991) *Genomics* **11**, 783-794) and the low probability of co-penetration of human DNAs.

In order to determine the distribution of DNAs isolated by TAR-cloning with a single vector containing the BLUR13 *Alu* sequence, the YACs were examined using FISH analysis. Many of the YACs contained DNA from the pericentric region, although several identified other regions on chromosome 16. In the long arm, the cloned DNAs were clustered at the junction of the pericentromeric block of tandemly repeated DNA (16q11.2) and the euchromatic gene-containing region. Several of the YACs identified other chromosomes, mainly the short arms of 13, 14, 15, 21 and 22. This is not surprising since the pericentromeric region of chromosome 16 has simple repeat DNAs related to the repetitive regions of the other chromosomes. While several regions of chromosome 16 were isolated by TAR-cloning, the lack of randomness is likely explained by the distribution of BLUR13 *Alu* or *ARS* sequences in the chromosome (Korenberg, et al., (1988) *Cell* **53**, 391-400). Further investigation is necessary to understand the clustering of YAC signals at the junction of the pericentric heterochromatin and euchromatin of the long arm. Use of either less diverged *Alu* repeats or a set of vectors containing different repeat sequences might result in a more random distribution of isolated DNAs.

During the cloning of human DNA from hybrid cells, approximately three-quarters of the transformants lacked mammalian DNA. These transformants

presumably arose by illegitimate recombination between the vector and yeast chromosome(s), which resulted in the generation of yeast chromosome fragments that probably carried natural telomeres (unpublished data). When compared to YACs, these chromosome fragments were much more stable in the initial transformant colonies (<5% of cells in a colony lacked the *HIS3* marker). The false-positive clones can potentially be distinguished readily by including a color marker in the TAR-cloning vector that can facilitate detection of chromosome malsegregation (Sandell, et al., (1993) *Cell* 75, 729-739).

TAR-cloning may also be employed to generate circular YACs. We have found that a linear plasmid containing human repeat at each end (i.e., *Alu-Marker-CEN-LINE*), when co-transformed along with human DNA, efficiently generates circular YACs containing large human DNA inserts (See, Example 2). The circular molecules would facilitate handling as well as transfer to cells of other organisms.

Furthermore, we propose that the method can be applied to the isolation of specific chromosomal regions, families of genes, and possibly single copy genes. Ketner *et al.* (12) demonstrated that a fragment of adenovirus DNA could be isolated from a mixture of virus plus mouse DNA when present at 10 copies per mammalian genome equivalent. The vectors used in their work contained an *ARS* which we have found would reduce the efficiency of cloning.

Our results demonstrate that the TAR method is efficient for cloning large human DNA fragments. While YACs greater than 600 kb were obtained, we anticipate that conditions can be optimized to yield more and larger YACs based on this initial discovery. There may be limitations on TAR-cloning that depend on the distribution of the TAR-cloning sequences and *ARS*'s (when vectors lacking an *ARS* are used). Use of *Alu*'s and *LINE*s that are more representative (instead of BLUR13 *Alu* and *LINE1.1*) may result in more efficient cloning.

There are several features of YACs, as compared to bacterial artificial chromosomes (BACs or PACs), that are desirable in the characterization and manipulation of genomes. Large fragments of DNA can be easily cloned or generated by *in vivo* recombination in yeast. YACs can be genetically manipulated in yeast, and
5 they can be utilized in the generation of transgenic organisms. As discussed above, the TAR-cloning method expands the usefulness of YACs in that it provides the possibility for direct cloning of DNA fragments using homologous recombination and, therefore, can simplify isolation of chromosome-specific sequences and isolation of gene families.

10

Table 1. Efficiency of transformation by *Alu* and *LINE*-containing plasmids when various DNAs are included

5	Plasmid* DNA	Cellular DNA	Number of His ⁺ transformants**
	pVC1	none	1-3
	pVC1 + pVL27	none	0-7
	pVC1 + pVL27	human	300-1,000
10	pVC1	human	300-1,000
	pVC3	human	50-600
	pVC1	hamster	1-10
	pVC1	mouse	1-20
	pVC1	Hybrid cell line CY18	20-70
15			

*YPH857 yeast spheroplasts were transformed with 1 µg of a *SalI*-linearized pVC1 plasmid or with a mixture of linearized *Alu*-containing plasmids along with an equal amount of human or rodent DNA. pVC1 = *Alu-CEN6-HIS3-TEL*; pVC3 = *LINE-CEN6-HIS3-TEL*; pVL27 = *Alu-URA3-TEL*.

** 5-15 independent transformations were carried out for each condition.

Table 2. Efficiency of transformation by *Alu*-containing TAR vectors when various DNAs are included.

5	TAR Vector*	<i>Alu</i> orientation	Mammalian DNA	No. of His ⁺ or Trp ⁺ transformants**
	pVC39-AAT3	---> <---	None	1-3
	-AAH2	---> <---	None	0-7
	-AAH4	---> --->	None	0-7
10	-AAT3	---> <---	Human	300-1,000
	-AAH2	---> <---	Human	400-1,000
	-AAH4	---> --->	Human	5-20
	-AAH2	---> <---	Hamster	3-10
	-AAH2	---> <---	Mouse	1-20
15	-LAH2	<i>LINE</i> <---	Human	200-500
	-MAH8	<i>MER</i> <---	Human	50-100
	-MAH10	<i>MER</i> <---	Human	100-200
	pVC1	<i>TEL-Alu</i>	Human	300-1,000
	pNKBAC39	---> <---	Human	200-500

20

*Yeast spheroplasts were transformed with 1 µg of linearized plasmids along with 5 µg of human or rodent DNA.

**3-20 independent transformations were carried out for each condition.

25

EXAMPLE 2

CIRCULAR TAR CLONING

5 **Materials and Methods****TAR Cloning Vectors**

Centromeric and acentric vectors pVC1 (*Alu-CEN6-HIS3-TEL*), and pVL27 (*Alu-URA3-TEL*) used for generation of linear YACs have been described earlier (Larionov, et al., (1996) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci USA* **93**, 491-496). New TAR circularizing vectors containing two *Alu*'s or *Alu* plus a medium reiteration (*MER*) frequency human repetitive sequence or a *LINE* sequence were constructed (Fig. 6A). These vectors were constructed from the vector pVCX0 (*Alu-CEN6-HIS3-TEL*). pVCX0 was obtained from pVC1 by replacement of a 297 bp *Bam*HI fragment containing BLUR13 *Alu* sequence with a 320 bp *Bam*HI fragment containing an *Alu* consensus sequence (Batzner, et al., (1994) *Genet. Anal. Tech. Appl.* **11**, 34-38). Another targeting sequence (*Alu*, *LINE* or *MER*) was included in pVCX0 by replacement of a 0.4 kb *Eco*RV telomere-containing fragment (*TEL*). Three constructed vectors, pVC39-AAH2, pVC39-AAH4 and pVC39-AAT3, contain *Alu* targeting sequences (i.e., an *Alu* consensus at one end and a Eco-BLUR13.R1 *Alu* sequence at another end). Eco-BLUR13.R1 differs from BLUR13.R1 in that the order of two *Alu* halves is reversed. Reversion arose by isolating the *Alu* family repeat as a *Eco*RI fragment from a tandem duplication of a *Bam*HI BLUR13.R1 fragment (Pavan, et al., (1990) *Mol. Cell. Biol.* **10**, 4163-4169). In pVC39-AAT3 (*Alu-CEN6-TRP1-Alu*) and pVC39-AAH2 (*Alu-CEN6-HIS3-Alu*) the targeting sequences were cloned in inverted orientation. pVC39-AAT3 is marked by *TRP1* and contains a tandem repeat of Eco-BLUR13.R1. The vector was cut with *Pst*II (the site is located in the polylinker) before transformation to yield a molecule bounded by complete *Alu* sequences. pVC39-AAH2 is marked by *HIS3* and contains one copy of Eco-BLUR13.R1. pVC39-AAH2 was cut with *Sma*I before transformation. Since a *Sma*I site is present in both targeting sequences, the linearized form of pVC39-AAH2

contains 207 bp from 320 bp of the *Alu* consensus at one end and 52 bp from 297 bp of BLUR13.R1 *Alu* sequence at the other end. In the linearized vector, 45 bp out of the 52 bp of BLUR13.R1 are identical to the terminal region of *Alu* consensus. It is worth noting that both targeting sequences in pVC39-AAH2 lack an 82 bp fragment of 3' *Alu* repeat. This fragment was used as a specific probe for detection of human YACs generated by pVC39-AAH2. pNKBAC39 is a derivative of pVC39-AAH2 containing pBeloBAC11 (Shizuya, et al., (1992) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* **89**, 8794-8797). The plasmid was cut by *SalI* before transformation. pVC39-AAH4 contains *Alu* consensus and BLUR13.R1 sequences cloned in direct orientation.

Linearization of pVC39-AAH4 with *SmaI* before transformation was accompanied by a partial deletion of *Alu* repeats. The linearized form of the vector contains 207 bp of *Alu* consensus at one end and 246 bp of EcoBLUR13.R1 at the other end. pVC39-MAH8 (*MER8-CEN6-HIS3-Alu*) and pVC39-MAH10 (*MER10-CEN6-HIS3-Alu*) contain *MER8* and *MER10* human repeats (Jurka, et al., (1993) *Nucl. Acids Res.* **21**, 1273-1279) and an *Alu* consensus as targeting sequences. pVC39-MAH8 and pVC39-MAH10 were cut with *EcoRI* (the site is located in the polylinker) before transformation to yield molecules bounded by complete *Alu* and *MER* sequences. pVC39-LAH1 (*LINE1-CEN6-HIS3-Alu*) contains a human repeat *LINE1.1* from pVC3 (Larionov, et al., (1996) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci USA* **93**, 491-496) at one end and an *Alu* consensus repeat at the other end. The plasmid was cut by *SmaI* before transformation. All the plasmids were purified by CsCl-EtBr centrifugation for TAR cloning experiments.

Yeast Strains and Mammalian Cell Lines

Saccharomyces cerevisiae strain VL6-48-2 [*MATa*, *his3-Δ200*, *trp1-Δ1*, *ura3-52*, *met 14*, *lys2*, *ade2*] was used. This strain was isolated as meiotic segregant of a diploid formed between strain YPH857 [*MATα leu2-Δ1 ade2-101 trp1-Δ1 his3-Δ200 lys2-801 ura3-52*]. (Sikorski, et al. "A system of shuttle vectors and yeast host strains designed for efficient manipulation of DNA in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. *Genetics* 122: 19-27 (1989)) and strain YCENGAL [*MATa ade1 met14 ura3-52 his3 CEN3::GAL1 URA3*; (Hill, et al. "Genetic manipulation of centromere function." *Mol.*

Cell. Biol. 7: 2397-405 (1987)]. Eight meiotic segregants of the hybrid were checked for efficiency of spheroplast transformation [as described below] by a 7 kb CEN/ARS circular plasmid. Two of the segregants exhibited a high transformation efficiency between 10^7 and 10^8 colonies per 1 mg of the plasmid as compared to ~10 fold lower transformation efficiencies for the parental YPH857 and YCENGAL strains. One of the meiotic segregants--VL6-48--also exhibited a high transformation efficiency with a 360 kb human YAC. The chromosome III of this strain containing a conditional centromere (derived from YCENGAL) was replaced by a normal chromosome III from the strain YPH49 (*MAT α /MAT α ura3-52/ura3-52 lys2-801/lys2-801 ade2-101/ade2-101 trp1- Δ 1/trp1- Δ 1* [Sikorski, et al. "A system of shuttle vectors and yeast host strains designed for efficient manipulation of DNA in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*." *Genetics* 122: 19-27 (1989))] using the method described in Larionov et al. (1994) ["The role of recombination and RAD52 in mutation of chromosomal DNA transformed into yeast." *Nucleic Acids Res.* 22: 4234-4241 (1994)]. The resulting strain VL6-48-2 had the genotype *MAT α , his3- Δ 200, trp1- Δ 1, met14, ura3-52, ade2, lys2*.

To increase the frequency of transformants, which is particularly important in TAR cloning procedures where the desired or selected insert nucleic acid represents a relatively rare nucleic acid, either in a population of nucleic acids or a mixed population of nucleic acids, we have also developed a novel procedure for producing high transformation efficiency yeast spheroplasts. This procedure requires growing a 50 ml yeast culture (50 ml in a 500 ml flask) with vigorous shaking to assure good aeration at 30 °C overnight to OD₆₆₀ of 1.0 (the actual measurement is 0.1 after diluting 1/10 in water). For the VL648-2 strain we have used, the OD₆₆₀ must be exactly 1.0 for highly reproducible transformation efficiency of frozen spheroplasts. We have found, contrary to the prior art, that each strain has its own specific optimum OD₆₆₀ for highly reproducible transformation efficiency of frozen spheroplasts. The cells are then collected by centrifugation at 3,100 g, for 3 min. at ~5°C, followed by a 20-50 ml wash with H₂O, and a 20-50 ml wash with 1 M sorbitol. 20 ml of SPE (1M sorbitol, 0.01M NaPhosphate, pH 7.4, 10mM EDTA) are then added to the cell pellet

which is vortexed; then 20 microliters Zymolyase (10mg/ml in 50% glycerol) and 40 microliters beta-mercaptoethanol are added and the mixture vortexed. Subsequent treatments should treat the cells gently. The cells are then incubated at 30°C, for about 20 min. with gentle shaking. However, this is a strain or condition dependent procedure; therefore cells should be recovered earlier or later depending on the following lysis test.

Lysis test:

At various times prior to 20 min, check the OD660 of the

- A. Zymolyased cells after diluting 1/10 in 1M sorbitol
- B. Zymolyased cells after diluting 1/10 in 2% SDS (sodium dodecyl sulfate) which lyses the cells if they are spheroplasts. The cells are ready when the difference between the two readings is 3 to 7 fold. Do not leave cells in Zymolyase too long.

If the cells are ready, they are washed 2-3 times in 25 ml of 1M sorbitol and then spun at 600 x g for 10 min. at ~5 °C. The cell pellet is gently resuspended in 2 ml STC (1M sorbitol, 10mM Tris, pH7.5, 10mM CaCl₂). These spheroplasts can be kept up to 1 hr at room temp. If the spheroplasts are going to be stored for a longer period, it may be necessary to prepare frozen spheroplasts.

To freeze spheroplasts, DMSO is added to spheroplasts (first suspended in SOS (1M sorbitol, 6.5mM CaCl₂, 0.25% yeast extract, 0.5% bactopectone) to final concentration of 10% and samples are placed at -70°C. Such samples are highly competent for transformation up to at least 6 months.

Human (HL-60), mouse (NIH3T3), hamster (CHOK1) and chromosome 22-containing hamster/human hybrid (GM 10888) cells were obtained from the University of North Carolina Tissue Culture Facility. Mouse/human monochromosomal somatic cell hybrid CY18 with human chromosome 16 was provided by L. Deaven, Los Alamos National Laboratory. Mouse/human monochromosomal somatic cell hybrid GM109260 with human chromosome 10 was provided by M. Cancilla, The Murdoch

Institute for Research into Birth Defect, Melbourne, Australia. Radiation hybrid hamster/human cell line D2-X-38 that contained an approximate 5 Mb fragment from chromosome 2 with XRCC5 (Ku80) DNA repair gene (Blunt, et al., (1995) *Genomics* **30**, 320-328) was obtained from Penny Jeggo. Yeast cells were grown on complete medium (YPD) or synthetic standard selective media (Larionov, et al., (1996) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci USA* **93**, 491-496).

Yeast Transformation

A protocol for spheroplasting cells was used that results in efficient transformation (Larionov, et al., (1996) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci USA* **93**, 491-496). Agarose plugs (100 µl) containing approximately 5 µg of gently prepared DNAs from monochromosomal cell lines were used for transformation (Larionov, et al., (1996) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci USA* **93**, 491-496). Linearized vector(s) (1 µg) was added to DNA-containing plugs before treating with agarase, and presented to spheroplasts.

Identification of YAC Clones

Chromosomal size DNAs from transformants were separated by Transverse Alternating Field Electrophoresis (TAFE), blotted and hybridized with human and/or rodent DNA as previously described (Carle, et al., (1984) *Nucleic Acids Res.* **12**, 5647-5664 and Larionov, et al., (1996) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci USA* **93**, 491-496). Human, hamster and mouse probes were labeled by random priming. When a genomic human DNA probe was used, unlabeled targeting fragment of a TAR vector(s) (5 µg) and unlabeled mouse CotI DNA (100 µg) was added to the hybridization solution to suppress the hybridization of repetitive sequences. When a mouse or hamster DNA probe(s) was used, unlabeled human CotI DNA (100 µg) was added to the hybridization solution. To estimate the size of circular YACs, agarose DNA plugs were exposed to a low dose of γ-rays (30 Krad) before TAFE analysis.

A specific *Alu* probe for detection of human YACs generated by the TAR circularizing vector pVC39-AAH2 was developed. This probe is the 82 bp fragment of 3' *Alu* consensus sequence that is omitted in the linearized pVC39-AAH2 as

described above. Two primers were used to amplify this fragment from pPD39 plasmid containing *Alu* consensus sequence (Batzer, et al., (1994) *Genet. Anal. Tech. Appl.* 11, 34-38): 5' CCCGGGAGGCGGAGCTTGCAGTGA 3' (SEQ ID NO:3) and TTTGAGACGGAGTCTCGCTCTGTGCGCCAG 3' (SEQ ID NO:4). The *Alu* probe was labeled with ³²P-dCTP during PCR reaction.

Analysis of YAC Propagation During Mitotic Growth

Loss of YACs was determined by measuring loss of the centromere-linked *HIS3* or *TRP1* markers, as previously described (Larionov, et al., (1996) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci USA* 93, 491-496) in primary transformants and in derived subclones. Briefly, colonies were streaked to nonselective medium and the frequency of His⁺ or Trp⁺ colonies was determined by replica-plating onto selective medium.

Alu-profiles of YACs

To identify fragments containing *Alu* sequences (*Alu*-profiles), 1 µg of total yeast DNA was digested to completion with *TaqI*. Samples were run by gel electrophoresis, transferred to a nylon membrane, and hybridized with an 82 bp *Alu* probe (see above). Total yeast DNA for *Alu*-profiles was extracted from 5-ml cultures using standard methods.

RESULTS

Rationale for Generation of Circular YACs

The TAR cloning method is based on recombination between human DNA fragments transformed into yeast and co-transformed plasmids containing a repeat commonly represented in human DNA. Based on the efficiency of recombination during transformation between diverged DNAs and the likelihood that repeats near the ends of DNA fragments might be more likely to undergo recombination compared to internal repeats (Larionov, et al., (1996) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci USA* 93, 491-496), we reasoned that TAR could also be applied to the generation of circular YACs. In the proposed scheme (Fig. 6B), a linear plasmid is generated that contains commonly

occurring repeats, such as *Alu* or *LINE*, at each end, a yeast selectable marker and a centromere. Recombination between the plasmid and homologous or diverged repeats in co-transformed human DNA can result in circular YAC molecules. As proposed for linear TAR cloning (Larionov, et al., (1996) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci USA* **93**, 491-496) the capability for replication is provided by one of the frequent sequences present in human DNA that can function as replication origins (*ARS*) in yeast.

TAR Vectors Containing Human Repeats Can Generate Circular YACs

The generation of circular YACs by TAR cloning was investigated using a mixture of human DNA and vectors with terminal *Alu* sequences. Total human DNA that was gently isolated by lysing cells in low-melted agarose was combined (after melting the agarose) with a linearized *Alu-TRP1-CEN6-Alu* plasmid pVC39-AAT3 and presented to yeast spheroplasts. The full size *Alu*'s were in inverted orientation. Between 300 and 1,000 Trp⁺ transformants were typically obtained using a mixture containing 1 µg of plasmid and 5 µg of human DNA (Table 2). Since less than 10 transformants were obtained when only plasmid DNA was presented to spheroplasts, the high levels of transformation were due to interactions between the human DNAs and the plasmid molecules. These frequencies were comparable to that observed using a single *Alu*-containing TAR vector pVC1 that generates linear YACs (Table 2) (See also, Larionov, et al., (1996) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci USA* **93**, 491-496). High frequencies of transformation were also obtained when a plasmid pVC39-AAH2 containing parts of *Alu* sequences was used. This TAR-circularizing vector had a 207 bp 5' truncated *Alu* fragment at one end and a 52 bp *Alu* internal sequence at the other end in opposite orientation; the *Alu*'s were 10% diverged and shared a common region of 45 bp (see Material and Methods). The efficient generation of transformants (Table 2) demonstrates that the minimum targeting sequence required for TAR cloning is less than 60 nucleotides. No or few transformants were obtained with the pVC39-AAH4 vector that contained *Alu* repeats in direct orientation (Table 2); presumably, intraplasmid recombination between targeting sequences competes with recombinational interaction with human DNA.

The presence and nature of YACs generated by the circularizing vectors was determined. Chromosomal size DNA of the Trp⁺ or His⁺ transformants obtained with pVC39-AAT3 or pVC39-AAH2 vectors was analyzed by TAFE gel electrophoresis. Large circular DNA molecules are expected to be retained in the starting wells under the TAFE conditions employed. Among 100 transformants analyzed (60 obtained with pVC39-AAH2 and 40 obtained with pVC39-AAT3 vectors), no new chromosome bands were detected by EtBr staining. However, when the gels were probed with a radioactively labeled human DNA (under conditions where hybridization to *Alu*'s was prevented) strong signals were located at the positions of the starting wells for 93 out of 100 clones, which were presumed to be circular DNAs (Fig. 7). In addition there was usually a faint single band characteristic of each of the 93 transformants. A second set of plugs was, therefore, exposed to a low dose of radiation in order to produce breaks in the molecules. If YAC molecules were circular, radiation-induced breaks would result in the material appearing within the gel, with those molecules having only a single break resulting in strong bands (*See, Game, et al., (1989) Genetics* 123, 695-713). Multiple breaks would result in a smear. As shown in Fig. 7, irradiation of the plugs resulted in broad bands of material that hybridized with the human probe. The upper position of broad bands corresponded to the position of the faint single bands found with unirradiated DNA. We conclude that nearly all the YACs were circular and that the single faint band obtained with unirradiated DNA corresponded to broken molecules arising during DNA isolation. These results also indicate that each transformant colony typically had only one YAC (see below). Over 50% of YACs were greater than 150 kb. (Specific analysis of size distribution for chromosome 16 YACs are presented below.) While the size of the YACs is smaller than reported previously for linear TAR cloning (*Larionov, et al., (1996) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci USA* 93, 491-496), we note that the system has not been optimized for the development of large circular YACs.

Since large circular YAC DNA does not migrate into gels under the TAFE conditions used, we investigated whether this property could be employed to specifically separate them from yeast chromosomal DNA and subsequently to isolate

and characterize them. An agarose plug with chromosomal size DNA from the transformant containing the circular YAC was first subjected to a standard TAFE procedure. Based on results in Fig. 7, the DNA in the wells should be greatly enriched for human DNA YACs. Following this the plug was removed from the well, treated
5 with *NotI* and then subjected again to TAFE analysis. The band after this second TAFE run, corresponding to linearized YAC, was easily detected by EtBr staining (Fig. 8A, B) similar to BACs isolated from bacterial cells (Shizuya, et al., (1992) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* **89**, 8794-8797). We also investigated TAR circular cloning after introducing into pVC39-AAH2 the *E. coli* F-factor based cassette from a BAC vector.
10 As shown in Table 2, the shuttle pNKBAC39 vector also generates circular human YACs in yeast. These YACs could subsequently be propagated in *E. coli* as BACs.

The stability of the large circular YACs containing human DNA was investigated, since i) linear human YACs are known to be less stable than natural yeast
15 chromosomes and ii) the circular YACs might undergo sister chromatid exchange leading to dicentrics. In most (110/120) primary transformant colonies obtained with circularizing vectors pVC39-AAH2 and pVC39-AAT3, the YACs were stable. Less than 10% of cells in a colony grown without selection for the YAC lacked the YAC marker, similar to observations with linear YACs generated either by a standard
20 ligation method or by linear TAR cloning with two telomere-containing vectors (Kouprina, et al., (1994) *Genomics* **21**, 7-17 and Larionov, et al., (1996) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci USA* **93**, 491-496). The YACs are also structurally stable in that changes in size were generally not seen. For example, in most transformants only one faint band corresponding to a linear form of the YAC was observed for unirradiated DNA
25 arguing against the presence of several YACs in the transformant or the development of various size YACs during propagation. The structural stability of circular YACs from five primary transformant colonies was examined further. Cells were inoculated into YEPD medium and grown for 20 generations. The cells were plated and the sizes of YACs in five subclones of each transformant were determined after exposure to γ -
30 rays. No changes in size from the original ~150-200 kb YACs were observed for subclones of 4 transformants. For one of the transformants 40 kb and 80 kb deletions

were detected in two of the 5 subclones analyzed. While these results demonstrate that human DNA cloned in circular YACs may undergo rearrangements during mitotic propagation, the frequency of rearrangements is comparable to that observed for linear YACs (Kouprina, et al., (1994) *Genomics* **21**, 7-17 and Larionov, et al., (1994) *Nucleic Acids Res.* **22**, 4154-4161).

We also investigated the use of other classes of repeat elements, the *LINE* and the *MER* moderate repeats, that are at least 10-fold less frequent than *Alu*'s. One end of the circularizing TAR vectors contained a *MER* or *LINE* element and the other end had an *Alu* consensus. As shown in Table 2, both *MER8* and *MER10* and *LINE1* led to an increase in numbers of TAR derived transformants as compared to the control. The lower efficiency of transformation as compared to *Alu* containing vectors apparently reflects the reduced frequency of these repeats in the genome. Among 60 transformants analyzed (20 for each vector) they all contained human DNA as circular YACs. The sizes were comparable to those obtained with vectors having only *Alu*'s as might be expected since the *Alu* is much more frequent than *MER* and *LINE* sequences. We conclude that TAR cloning can be applied to the generation of large, stable circular YACs from human genomic DNA. Once generated, the circular YACs can be readily isolated from yeast cells.

20

Selective Cloning of Human DNA with a TAR-Circularizing Vector from Rodent/Human Monochromosomal Hybrid Cells

We investigated the use of circular TAR cloning for the specific isolation of human DNA. Total genomic DNA from the hybrid line CY18 containing human chromosome 16 was presented to yeast spheroplasts along with a linearized vector pVC39-AAH2 (*Alu-CEN6-HIS3-Alu*). The efficiency of transformation was 100-200 colonies per 5 µg of genomic DNA (Table 3). Transformation with mouse DNA plus vector yielded only a few transformants (Table 2). Among 200 His⁺ transformants (from 3 independent transformations), nearly 80% (161/200) contained human DNA based on hybridization of chromosome size DNA in TAFE gels with an 82 bp *Alu* probe. Since the probe had no homology to the linearized pVC39-AAH2 (see

30

Materials and Methods), it was diagnostic for human DNA. Among 39 transformants that lacked human DNA, 3 had mouse DNA. Since chromosome 16 which is 100 Mb represents only 1.5% of the total cellular DNA, circular TAR cloning can provide a highly efficient means for isolating human DNA from a hybrid cell line. The
5 enrichment of human to mouse DNA is greater than 3,000-fold based on the isolation of 161 human YAC clones versus 3 mouse YAC clones and the fraction of human DNA in the hybrid. Most of the clones analyzed by TAFE (154/161) contained circular YACs that were retained in the wells. The size distribution of YACs was determined after exposure to γ -rays. As shown in Fig. 9 most of the YACs were
10 between 100-200 kb; 18% were greater than 200 kb. Based on the *Alu* profiles of 40 randomly selected YACs (size range from 70 to 300 kb) there were no identical clones.

We also examined the ability of the circular TAR vector pVC39-AAH2 to
15 isolate human DNA from monochromosomal rodent/human hybrid cell lines containing human chromosome 10 or 22. Comparable transformation efficiencies and frequencies of YACs containing human DNA were found for the three hybrid cell lines examined (Table 3). Based on TAFE analyses of unirradiated and irradiated DNAs nearly 80% of the transformants for each hybrid cell line (125/158) contained circular YACs with
20 sizes from 70 kb to 350 kb. The *Alu* profiles of 20 YACs generated from each hybrid line were determined. No identical patterns were observed. Among 33 transformants analyzed that lacked human DNA, none had rodent DNA. These transformants apparently arose by illegitimate recombination between vector and yeast chromosome(s). Selective cloning of human DNA was also observed with the *F*-factor
25 based pNKBAC39 vector. We conclude that circular TAR cloning vectors containing *Alu* sequences are highly selective for isolation of human DNA from hybrid cell lines.

**Selective TAR Cloning of Human DNA from a Radiation/Hybrid Line
Containing a Small Fragment of Human DNA**

30 Based on the above results, the TAR cloning approach could be applied to positional cloning and isolation of DNAs from small fragments of chromosomal DNA.

We, therefore, examined the ability of TAR cloning to isolate human DNA from a radiation hybrid containing a 5 Mb region of chromosome 2 that includes the *Ku80* gene required for double-strand break and VDJ recombination (Blunt, et al., (1995) *Genomics* **30**, 320-328). Among 113 isolates obtained with the pVC39-AAH2, there
5 were 20 containing human DNA and 5 with hamster DNA and there were no chimeric YACs isolated. Among the 20 human YACs, 15 were circular with sizes between 70 kb and 200 kb. In the 5 remaining transformants the YACs were small (about 70 kb) and linear. Since the *Alu* profiles of the YACs were different, it appears that the
10 cloned regions correspond to different regions of the human chromosomal fragment (Fig. 10). Based on these results, there was a nearly 5,000-fold enrichment of human DNA by the circular TAR cloning. This degree of enrichment is vastly improved over the linear TAR cloning procedures.

Selective Linear TAR Cloning of Human DNA from a Hybrid Cell Line

15 We compared linear and circular TAR cloning in terms of efficiency and the nature of the cloned material. The combination of vectors *Alu-CEN6-HIS3-TEL* (pVC1) and *Alu-URA3-TEL* (pVL27) containing full size *Alu*'s led to the selective cloning of human DNA from a hamster/ human chromosome 22 hybrid line (Table 3). Among His⁺Ura⁺ transformants 55% (55/100) contained linear human YACs (based on
20 hybridization with human DNA). The size of the YACs varied from 70 kb to >600 kb. Over 50% of the YACs were > 200 kb. Since only 3% of transformants having hamster DNA, there was a nearly 1,100-fold enrichment of human DNA. Thus, linear TAR cloning with two vectors containing *Alu* targeting sequences also provides a means for the selective isolation of human DNA as YACs from hybrid cell lines. These
25 results are also unexpectedly superior over the enrichment procedure using a single vector.

We also examined linear TAR cloning of human DNA from a hybrid cell line using a single, telomere-containing *Alu-CEN6-HIS3-TEL* vector pVC1 in order to
30 compare the present results with those obtained previously (Larionov, et al., (1996) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci USA* **93**, 491-496). Typically, from 20 to 100 His⁺

transformants were obtained with the vector (Table 3). Based on about 25% of transformants having human DNA and 4% having mouse DNA, there was a nearly 400-fold enrichment of human DNA among the mammalian DNAs isolated.

5 Unlike the circular YACs, linear YACs in the primary transformants obtained with the pVC1 vector were lost with a high frequency. However, they were mitotically stable in the subclones of the transformants (Larionov, et al., (1996) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci USA* 93, 491-496). To explain the generation of stable linear YACs by a single
10 telomere vector, we had proposed that the end opposite to that containing the telomere may develop a telomere at yeast telomere-like sequences present in human chromosomes. To examine the mechanism of YAC stabilization, five primary transformant colonies were subcloned and the DNA from 5 subclones derived from each transformant were analyzed. While YACs in subclones derived from the same transformant exhibited similar or identical *Alu* profiles, there was a considerable
15 difference in the size of YACs (Fig. 11A, B). The differences could have been the result of a progenitor YAC that is reduced in size due to degradation of the end not containing a telomere. To test this idea, DNAs were isolated from the subclones, digested with either *Cla*I or *Eco*RV, (cutting in these sites removes the telomere (*TEL*) sequence from pVC1) or *Not*I or *Sfi*I (these sites are not present in the vector), run by
20 gel electrophoresis, and hybridized with a probe unique to the vector. All subclones derived from each transformant exhibited a common set of bands (Fig. 11C). These results support the hypothesis that the different size YACs observed in subclones were the result of degradation of the YACs from the initial non-telomere end followed by telomere formation. Thus, the pVC1 vector provides the opportunity to generate a
25 set of terminally-deleted YACs that can be isolated by simply restreaking the transformant colony. These deletion mutants will provide the opportunity to study different regions of the chromosome in greater detail and allow one to generate a series of smaller overlapping clones. Additionally, this technique will allow one to more easily sequence overlapping regions of the chromosome.

30

Human-rodent chimeras are not observed during TAR cloning

Previously we demonstrated that chimeric human-mouse YACs are not generated during TAR cloning with a single telomere TAR vector (Larionov, et al., (1996) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci USA* **93**, 491-496). We examined 80 circular human YACs generated from the chromosome 16 hybrid cell line for the presence of mouse DNA. Chromosome size DNA from these clones were separated by TAFE and hybridized with a mouse DNA probe to identify human/mouse chimeras. There were no YACs that hybridized to a mouse probe. Similarly, among 38 circular YACs containing chromosome 22 DNA, none hybridized to hamster DNA. We also examined linear human YACs and found no chimeras among 24 generated with one and 55 generated with two telomere-containing vectors. Thus we conclude that few, if any, chimeras are developed during circular or linear TAR cloning of human DNA from hybrid cell lines, suggesting that recombination between the two DNAs is excluded because of the lack of homology.

15

DISCUSSION

The yeast *S. cerevisiae* is highly efficient at recombining broken homologous or highly diverged DNA molecules through a *RAD52* dependent pathway. The high efficiency also extends to intermolecular recombination during yeast transformation (Erickson, et al., (1993) *Genetics* **134**, 151-157, Ketner, et al., (1994) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* **91**, 6186-6190, and Degryse et al., (1995) *Yeast* **11**, 629-640). In our TAR cloning approach, we have exploited the frequent co-penetration of large and/or small molecules along with efficient recombination to isolate human DNAs as large size YACs. When a circularizing plasmid containing a commonly occurring human repeat at each end (i.e., *Alu-CEN-Marker-Alu*) along with human DNA is transformed into yeast spheroplasts, there was a high yield of large circular YACs; nearly half were greater than 150 kb. Since the average distance between *Alu* sequences is about 3 kb, the TAR cloning of human DNA fragments appears to occur by nonrandom recombination. These results support our previous proposal that recombinational interactions between the repeats of the plasmid(s) occur preferentially with repeats near the ends of the human co-transformed DNA (Larionov, et al., (1996) *Proc. Natl.*

25
30

Acad. Sci USA **93**, 491-496). Surprisingly, there was efficient cloning when the cloning vector contained only a 52 bp *Alu* fragment, suggesting that the region of homology required for TAR cloning is small.

The application of TAR cloning to the development of circular YACs, has
5 provided several new utilities in the cloning of human DNAs or the DNAs of any organism in yeast. Most prominent is the ease of isolation of YACs from total yeast DNA using pulse-field gel electrophoresis, since the circular molecules are trapped in the starting well. Circular YACs are more resistant to shear than linear YACs and can be easily manipulated for further characterization of the cloned material. Furthermore,
10 the presence of an *F*-factor origin in a TAR vector provides the opportunity for transfer of a YAC to *E. coli*. Thus, TAR cloning using BAC type vectors provides many of the genetic utilities of yeast along with the capability for rapid isolation from *E. coli*.

15 Although there have been several reports on the cloning of DNA as large circular molecules in yeast (Garza, et al., (1989) *Science* **246**, 641-646, Featherstone, et al., (1993) *Genomics* **17**, 267-278, and McGonigal, et al., (1995) *Gene* **155**, 267-271), their stability has not been well-characterized. It has been reported (Larionov, et al., (1994) *Nucleic Acids Res.* **22**, 4154-4161) that there is a high incidence of sister-
20 chromatid exchange of human YACs and this could lead to generation of YAC dimers or dicentrics which are unstable. We have established that TAR-cloned circular YACs exhibit structural and segregational stabilities that are comparable to those observed for linear YACs. Moreover the structural stability of circular YACs can be further enhanced in a recombination-repair deficient *rad52* strain similar to that for linear
25 YACs.

An important utility of TAR cloning is the opportunity to specifically isolate human DNA from rodent-human hybrid cell lines. Previous approaches involved either cloning of DNA from physically separated specific chromosomes or the random
30 cloning of DNA from hybrid cell lines and identification of human clones (McCormick, et al., (1993) *Genomics* **18**, 553-558, Gingrich, et al., (1993) *Genomics* **15**, 228-230,

and Gingrich, et al., (1996) *Genomics* **32**, 65-74). Both methods are very laborious. Previously we showed that TAR cloning with a single telomere-containing vector led to a 75-fold enrichment of human DNA among the linear mammalian YACs that were isolated (Larionov, et al., (1996) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci USA* **93**, 491-496). In the
5 present experiments using TAR-circularizing vectors with *Alu*'s at each end, the enrichment was nearly 3,000-fold. The selectivity extended to even small human chromosome fragments since we were able to demonstrate that there was a comparable level of enrichment when circular TAR cloning was used for the isolation of human DNA from a 5 Mb fragment in a radiation hybrid. Thus, a circular TAR cloning
10 system can provide an efficient and fast method for positional cloning.

Selective isolation of human DNA from mouse-human hybrid cells was also observed with two telomere-containing vectors. In this case up to 55% of the transformants contained human YACs and the enrichment of human to mouse DNA
15 among the YACs was approximately 1,000-fold. The YACs size varied from 70 kb to more than 600 kb. The difference in levels of human DNA enrichment observed with one and two TAR vectors systems appears to be due to the ability to establish a second telomere. For the case of TAR cloning with two vectors, the YACs in primary transformants were stable, as was also found for circular TAR cloning. However, for
20 TAR cloning with a single vector, the sizes of YACs were often different in subclones of the primary transformant. Based on *Alu* profiles and physical analysis of YACs in the subclones, we propose that the degradation occurs from the end that initially lacked a telomere. Eventually the YACs are stabilized, presumably by telomere formation at various yeast telomere-like sequences. These results suggest that a
25 human YAC DNA with only one protected end can pass through several generations before healing of the broken end, similar to observations with broken yeast DNA (Sandell, et al., (1993) *Cell* **75**, 729-739). While the nature of the stabilizing sequences has not been established, a wide spectrum of YAC derivatives observed for each transformant suggests that such sequences are frequent in human DNA. We
30 suggest that this feature of isolating human DNAs with a single TAR vector can

provide the opportunity to generate a set of terminally-deleted linear YACs for physical mapping of the cloned material.

No rodent/human chimeras were observed during TAR cloning of human DNA
5 from monochromosomal hybrid cell lines. It seems that the lack of homology between human and mouse (hamster) DNAs prevents recombinational interactions. The lack of chimeras is consistent with the previous conclusion that recombination is an important source of chimeras (Green, et al., (1991) *Genomics* **11**, 658-669, Wada, et al., (1994) *Nucleic Acids Res.* **22**, 1561-1554, and Larionov, et al., (1994) *Nucleic Acids Res.* **22**,
10 4154-4161). Human/human chimeras are unlikely during TAR cloning of DNA from monochromosomal hybrid cells because of the low probability of co-penetration of more than one human DNA molecule from a transformation mixture in which the concentration of human DNA is low.

15 Our results demonstrate that the TAR method is highly efficient in the selective cloning of human DNA from hybrid cell lines as either circular or linear YACs. At present, most of the YACs cloned are in the size range of 100 to 200 kb. Size selection of molecules prior to transformation should increase the likelihood of obtaining larger YACs. The size distribution of TAR-cloned YACs could depend on
20 the distribution of repeats in chromosomal DNA. For example, use of moderately repeated sequences such as *MERs* (Jurka, et al., (1993) *Nucl. Acids Res.* **21**, 1273-1279) in circularizing TAR vectors or pairs of telomere containing vectors could result in the isolation of larger YACs. We note that many *MER* sequences are not present in the rodent genome. Thus, TAR vectors containing *MERs* can provide a great
25 selectivity in the cloning of human DNA from human/rodent hybrid cell lines.

In conclusion, TAR cloning greatly expands the usefulness of YACs in that it provides the possibility for direct cloning of DNA fragments through recombination. It provides opportunity for the simple isolation of specific chromosome sequences and it
30 is likely to lead to the isolation of gene families, and possibly single copy genes. To

this end, we have been able to selectively isolate ribosomal DNA repeats from total human DNA.

5 Table 3. Specific isolation of human DNAs by TAR cloning from rodent-human monochromosomal hybrid cell lines.

Hybrid cell line	TAR vector	No. of His ⁺ or His ⁺ Ura ⁺ transformants	% clones with human DNA
10	CIRCULAR pVC39		
mouse-human 16	-AAH2 (<i>Alu-ula</i>)*	100-200	90 (161/200)
mouse-human 10	-AAH2 (<i>Alu-ula</i>)	130-180	76 (74/98)
hamster-human 22	-AAH2 (<i>Alu-ula</i>)	90-170	85 (51/60)
15	LINEAR		
hamster-human 22	pVC1 (<i>TEL-Alu</i>)	20-70	25 (24/98)
hamster-human 22	pVC1+pVL27 (<i>TEL-Alu</i>) + (<i>Alu-TEL</i>)	85-190**	55 (55/100)

20

**Alu-ula* indicates that the repeats are in opposite orientation.

** Approximately half of the His⁺ transformants contained the unselectable *URA3* marker, which in all cases (152 examined) was linked to *HIS3*.

25

EXAMPLE 3

TAR CLONING OF SPECIFIC NUCLEIC ACIDS

5 TAR cloning of cDNAs

General concepts

We have also developed a system for the cloning of any cDNA of interest or the generation of cDNA libraries using the principles of TAR cloning as described
10 above. Unlike general TAR cloning of genomic fragments which rely on the resulting recombined genomic fragment to contain a yeast ARS like element (required for replication and propagation in yeast), our method of cDNA cloning utilizes a counter-selectable marker (CSM) with a pre-existing ARS element on the vector; i.e. only recombined molecules containing cDNA of interest with the subsequent loss of the
15 CMS are able to grow in yeast. Furthermore, this new method does not require that the insert be selectable. This method utilizes a standard yeast transformation reaction containing cDNA mixed with linearized vector with the CSM containing small regions of homology to the cDNA of interest flanking the break site. Using a yeast transformation host containing the appropriate genetic markers, resulting yeast
20 transformants will contain the desired cDNA recombined into the vector thus eliminating the ligation step normally required during cloning. By our estimations we calculate a minimum 250-fold of enrichment for the cloning of cDNAs of interest utilizing the TAR cloning principles.

25 General Experimental Design

Standard high copy shuttle vectors can be modified for TAR cloning of cDNAs. The circular vector contains a yeast 2 μ for high copy propagation in yeast, a yeast selectable marker (M), an *E. coli* origin (ori), antibiotic selection (AB) and regions of cDNA homology for TAR (5'HOM and 3' HOM; 5' upstream and 3'
30 downstream homology to a cDNA of interest) flanking the yeast CSM and stuffer

fragment (SF) containing a unique restriction enzyme site (RE) which will generate blunt ends after digestion. A general outline of the vector can be seen in figure 12.

For the TAR cloning of cDNAs, the homology on the cDNA can correspond to
5 20 to 150 bp of known sequence such as an expressed sequence sequence tag (EST) or
any other known homologous or homeologous sequence. For the creation of full
length cDNA libraries utilizing this method, the 3' homology can correspond to the
oligo primer used for cDNA synthesis such as an oligo(dT) sequence plus adaptor
sequence and the 5' homology can correspond to consensus 5' untranslated regions of
10 mRNAs. Examples of this would include Kozak sequences or other known upstream
consensus sequences. If these upstream consensus sequences are not sufficient for
TAR cloning, than small adaptor sequences can be ligated to the 5' full length
synthesized cDNAs thus providing a substrate for efficient TAR cloning of full length
cDNAs. For the cloning of a specific full length cDNA where the 5' sequence is not
15 available, the 3' homology can correspond to a 3' EST and the 5' homology to 5'
untranslated consensus sequence or consensequence plus small adaptor.

Results

As an initial test of TAR cloning of cDNA clones, we have constructed a test
20 vector (YEpGALNEOSUP) for TAR cloning of an experimental insert containing the
yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* *URA3* gene whose expression is controlled by the
yeast GAL1 promoter (Fig. 13). Our test shuttle vector contains the yeast 2μ origin of
replication (2μ m), the *LEU2* gene (M), the *E. coli* origin of replication and ampicillin
resistance (ori AB), the yeast *GALI* promoter (5' HOM), the gene conferring neomycin
25 resistance (SF) containing the unique blunt restriction enzyme site NruI (RE), the yeast
counter selectable marker *SUP11* (CSM) and a 3' homologous region to the test insert
(3' HOM). The *SUP11* counter selectable marker encodes a tRNA suppressor which
when contained on a high copy plasmid, such as 2μ vectors, is lethal to yeast cells.
Furthermore the *SUP11* provides a color selection, i.e. transformation host yeast
30 strains carrying the *ade2-101* nonsense mutation (which are red and do not grow on
media lacking adenine) can have thus mutation suppressed (or ADE⁺ and white) when

a single copy of *SUP11* is provided. Therefore, if the vector does not recombine with the insert during transformation, the yeast strain will die due to the toxicity of high copy *SUP11* (in fact, these cells can be seen as very small white microcolonies on the transformation plate). If the vector recombines with the test insert, the *SUP11* marker
5 is lost and the transformants will grow as large red colonies (Fig. 13). This method is not limited to use of the *SUP11* gene. Other counter selectable genes include *LYS2* and *URA3* which can be counter selected on media containing α -amino adipate and 5 fluoro-orotic acid respectively.

10 For our experiments, the vector was digested with *Nru*I and transformed with test inserts (*GALURA3*; the *URA3* gene is expressed from the *GAL1* promoter thus conferring a *URA*⁺ phenotype when grown on media with galactose) containing 150 bp of 3' homology and 5' homology of 32, 121, 210 and 697 bp of homology. All transformation reactions (utilizing standard *LiCl* prepared competent yeast cells) into
15 the *ade2-101* yeast host were done with 100 nanograms of digested vector, 10 nanograms of test insert and 50 micrograms of non-specific sonicated calf thymus DNA. The calf thymus DNA was added in extreme excess to test the specificity of TAR cloning of the test insert.

20 Our results (Table 4), indicate the efficacy of our system. No large red transformants were observed unless an insert containing both 5' and 3' homology was cotransformed with the digested vector. The absence of insert or absence of two-ended homology yielded no transformants. Furthermore, even when the 5' homology was only 32bp a significant number of large red transformants were observed,
25 although, at a lower frequency (approximately 5 fold less than with the larger regions of homology. As a final test, the red transformants were picked and tested for their ability to grow on galactose containing media lacking uracil. As can be seen in table 4, most of the transformants have the *GALURA3* insert again demonstrating the power of the technique.

30

Table 4. Efficacy of TAR cloning of test inserts

	3' homology (bp)	5' homology (bp)	#red transformants	GAL URA+ colonies
5	No insert	No insert	0	
	0	697	0	
	150	697	218	5/6
	150	32	43	7/12
10	150	121	206	11/12
	150	210	238	10/10

EXAMPLE 4

15

TAR CLONING IN *E. COLI*

The principles of TAR cloning in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* for the generation of recombinant DNA molecules can be applied to *E. coli*. Oliner et al. demonstrated the cloning of PCR products via the attachment of homologous vector sequences (by adding these sequences to the PCR primers) to the ends of the PCR products (Oliner et al. (*NAR* 21: 5192-97 (1993)). Upon the addition of PCR product and vector to a standard *E. coli* electroporation transformation reaction, they were able to generate recombinant molecules in the *E. coli* cells.

While these results demonstrate the applicability of TAR techniques to *E. coli*, this technique relies upon adding homologous sequences to the ends of each incoming DNA molecule to be inserted either by PCR, as Oliner et al. have shown, or by ligating these sequences to the DNA. Furthermore, their technique has a high background of self-ligation of the vector and was only tested for the cloning of relatively small PCR products (600 to 2000 bp fragments).

As discussed previously for the cloning of cDNA fragments using TAR in yeast, the same principles of vector design can be adapted for TAR cloning into *E. coli*. To improve the method of Oliner et al, the addition of a counter selectable marker to the vector flanked by regions of homology to the incoming DNA is used. Counter
5 selectable markers for *E. coli* and are either commercially or easily available (e.g. Invitrogen's pZERO plasmid based on the lethal gene *ccdB* (Invitrogen, Inc.) or overexpression of the Φ X174 lysis gene or sucrose). This counter selectable system can be constructed in standard *E. coli* vectors (or shuttle vectors) or in vectors
10 designed for cloning and propagating large DNA molecules in bacteria such as BACs (Shizua et al., *PNAS* 89 8794-8497 (1992)) or PACs (Sternberg, N. *PNAS* 87 103-107 (1990)). In order to clone related DNAs, mutants in the mismatch repair system (such as *mutS* or *mutL*) will be used in the modification of the Oliner system.

EXAMPLE 5

15

IN VIVO TAR CLONING

TAR cloning could also be accomplished through a combination of transformation associated recombination with an established cellular TAR vector
20 plasmid that is linearized *in vivo*. There are many examples of systems in which a single double-strand break can be produced within a cell at a specific target sequence. In particular the HO-endonuclease cuts only at the mating type locus of yeast. Cells can be engineered so that the MATYZ target sequence is moved to a plasmid or elsewhere in the genome or on a plasmid or artificial chromosome. The enzyme can be
25 put under the control of an inducible promoter such as GAL1. Simply by switching sugars from glucose to galactose, the enzyme is induced and a double-strand break is produced at the MATYZ site. An alternative enzyme is SCEI. Its target sequence is not present naturally in the nucleus. Thus, it can be placed in various positions in the genome or on plasmids so that a single break is produced in the nucleus at that site.
30 The presence of the induced break results in the ends or regions near the ends being highly recombinogenic for homologous or diverged DNAs (Bennett, et al. *Mol. Cell.*

Biol., in press; Nelson et al, *Mol. Cell. Biol.* 16 (1996) 2951-2957 and references therein; Rudin et al, *Mol. Cell. Biol.* 8 (1988) 3918-3928 and *Genetics* 122 (1989) 519-534). If the break site is in a plasmid or artificial chromosome and there is not opportunity for repair, the plasmid is usually lost. Illegitimate recombination is an uncommon event (approximately 10^3) (Moore and Haber, *Mol. Cell. Biol.* 16 (1996) 3164-2173) and genetically this can be reduced or alternatively a counterselectable system can be used as described below. To accomplish the TAR cloning using a plasmid cut in vivo, the following would be done. A circular TAR cloning vector as described herein with a centromere and ARS would be engineered so as to contain a double-strand break at a target sequence between the sequences used for TAR cloning. The plasmid has a selectable marker and the plasmid sequence is such that it shares no homology with other DNAs in the yeast cell so as to avoid recombination. Thus, once a double-strand break is produced and selection is maintained for the plasmid, cells can only grow if there is recombination with incoming material to yield a circular plasmid again or if there is religation (a low frequency event which can be counterselected against). Contained in the cells is an inducible gene such that when induced the gene product cuts the plasmid at the double-strand break target sequence. Cells are transformed by the nucleic acids of interest. Prior to transformation, or at the time of transformation and plating the inducing agent or conditions are used such that the enzyme that causes a double-strand break is induced. For example, cells can be transformed in galactose medium (Venema, J. et al. *Yeast* 11 (1995) 145-156). The GAL1 promoter is commonly used in yeast as a controllable promoter. The DNAs within the broken plasmid can undergo recombination with homologous or diverged nucleic acids that enter the cell. Selection for the marker on the broken plasmid assures that it will be repaired and counterselection increases the likelihood that repair has been accomplished with incoming nucleic acid. A counterselectable marker as described herein would eliminate many of the false positives due to simple illegitimate religation. After transformation and imbedding the spheroplasts in agar and allowing a few generations of growth, the counterselectable agent such as 5-flouro-orotic acid would be added. Thus only the transformants that had undergone recombination with

the incoming DNA would be able to grow. Selection is still for the marker on the plasmid.

SEQUENCE LISTING

(1) GENERAL INFORMATION:

5

(i) APPLICANT: The Government of the United States of America,
as represented by The Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
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10

15

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20

(ii) TITLE OF INVENTION: TRANSFORMATION-ASSOCIATED
RECOMBINATION
CLONING

(iii) NUMBER OF SEQUENCES: 4

25

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30

(v) COMPUTER READABLE FORM:

- (A) MEDIUM TYPE: Floppy disk
- (B) COMPUTER: IBM PC compatible
- (C) OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS/MS-DOS
- 5 (D) SOFTWARE: PatentIn Release #1.0, Version #1.30

(vi) CURRENT APPLICATION DATA:

- (A) APPLICATION NUMBER:
- (B) FILING DATE:
- 10 (C) CLASSIFICATION:

(viii) ATTORNEY/AGENT INFORMATION:

- (A) NAME: Perryman, David G.
- (B) REGISTRATION NUMBER: 33,438
- 15 (C) REFERENCE/DOCKET NUMBER: 14014.0198/P

(ix) TELECOMMUNICATION INFORMATION:

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- (B) TELEFAX: 404-688-9880
- 20

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:1:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- 25 (A) LENGTH: 40 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

- 30 (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA (genomic)

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:1:

5 GGTGGCTCAC GCCTGTAATC CCAGCACTTT GGGAGGCCGA
40

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:2:

10 (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 40 base pairs

(B) TYPE: nucleic acid

(C) STRANDEDNESS: single

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

15

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA (genomic)

20

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:2:

GGAGGCTGAG GCAGGAGAAT CGCTTGAACC CGGGAGGCCGG
40

25

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:3:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 24 base pairs

30 (B) TYPE: nucleic acid

(C) STRANDEDNESS: single

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA (genomic)

5

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:3:

10 CCCGGGAGGC GGAGCTTGCA GTGA

24

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:4:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

15

(A) LENGTH: 30 base pairs

(B) TYPE: nucleic acid

(C) STRANDEDNESS: single

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

20

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA (genomic)

25

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:4:

TTTGAGACGG AGTCTCGCTC TGTCGCCCAG

30

What is claimed is:

1. A method of making a yeast artificial chromosome comprising introducing into yeast cells a population of nucleic acids and a vector, wherein the vector comprises a yeast centromere, a selectable marker, a yeast telomere, and a sequence which can recombine with a region of a nucleic acid within the population of nucleic acids; whereby *in vivo* recombination makes the yeast artificial chromosome.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the sequence which can recombine with a region of the nucleic acid recombines with a repeat sequence on a nucleic acid within the population of nucleic acids.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the sequence on the vector which can recombine with a region of a nucleic acid within the population of nucleic acids is divergent from the sequence with which it recombines.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the vector further comprises a yeast origin of replication.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the vector further comprises a counter-selectable marker.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the population of nucleic acids and the vector are combined prior to introducing the population of nucleic acids and the vector into yeast cells.
7. A method of making a yeast artificial chromosome comprising introducing into yeast cells a population of nucleic acids and 1) a first vector comprising a yeast centromere, a yeast telomere, and a first sequence which can recombine with a region of a nucleic acid within the population of nucleic acids and 2) a second

vector comprising a yeast telomere and a second sequence which can recombine with a region of the nucleic acid within the population of nucleic acids; and wherein, at least one of the vectors further comprises a selectable marker; whereby *in vivo* recombination makes the yeast artificial chromosome.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the first sequence which can recombine with a region of the nucleic acid and the second sequence which can recombine with a region of the nucleic acid both recombine with a repeat sequence on the nucleic acid within the population of nucleic acids.
9. The method of claim 7, wherein the first sequence which can recombine with a region of a nucleic acid and the second sequence which can recombine with a region of the nucleic acid are the same.
10. The method of claim 7, wherein the first sequence which can recombine with a region of a nucleic acid and the second sequence which can recombine with a region of the nucleic acid are different.
11. The method of claim 7, wherein the first sequence which can recombine with a region of a nucleic acid and the second sequence which can recombine with a region of the nucleic acid are divergent from the sequence with which they recombine.
12. The method of claim 7, wherein both vectors further comprise a selectable marker.
13. The method of claim 7, wherein at least one of the vectors further comprise a yeast origin of replication.
14. The method of claim 7, wherein at least one of the vectors further comprise a counter-selectable marker.

15. The method of claim 7, wherein the population of nucleic acids, the first vector, and the second vector are combined prior to introducing the population of nucleic acids and the vectors into yeast cells.
16. A method of making a circular yeast artificial chromosome comprising introducing into yeast cells a population of nucleic acids and a vector, wherein the vector comprises a yeast centromere, a selectable marker, and at least two sequences which can recombine with a region of a nucleic acid within the population of nucleic acids; whereby *in vivo* recombination makes the circular yeast artificial chromosome.
17. The method of claim 16, wherein the sequences which can recombine with a region of the nucleic acid recombine with a repeat sequence on the nucleic acid within the population of nucleic acids.
18. The method of claim 16, wherein the sequences which can recombine with a region of the nucleic acid are the same.
19. The method of claim 16, wherein the sequences which can recombine with a region of the nucleic acid are different.
20. The method of claim 17, wherein the sequences which can recombine with a region of a nucleic acid are divergent from the sequence with which they recombine.
21. The method of claim 16, wherein the vector further comprises a yeast origin of replication.
22. The method of claim 16, wherein the vector further comprises a counter-selectable marker.

23. The method of claim 16, wherein the population of nucleic acids and the vector are combined prior to introducing the population of nucleic acids and the vector into yeast cells.
24. A method of making a yeast artificial chromosome with a selected insert nucleic acid from a mixed population of nucleic acids comprising introducing into yeast cells the mixed population of nucleic acids and a vector, wherein the vector comprises a yeast centromere, a selectable marker, a yeast telomere, and a sequence which can recombine with a region of the selected insert nucleic acid within the mixed population of nucleic acids; whereby *in vivo* recombination makes the yeast artificial chromosome with the selected insert nucleic acid.
25. The method of claim 24, wherein the selected insert nucleic acid is for a selected species type.
26. The method of claim 25, wherein the selected species type is a human nucleic acid.
27. The method of claim 24, wherein the selected insert nucleic acid is selected from a population of nucleic acids containing hybrid nucleic acids.
28. The method of claim 24, wherein the sequence which can recombine with a region of the selected insert nucleic acid recombines with a repeat sequence on the selected insert nucleic acid within the mixed population of nucleic acids.
29. The method of claim 24, wherein the sequence on the vector which can recombine with a region of a selected insert nucleic acid within the mixed population of nucleic acids is divergent from the sequence with which it recombines.

30. The method of claim 24, wherein the mixed population of nucleic acids and the vector are combined prior to introducing the mixed population of nucleic acids and the vector into yeast cells.
31. A method of making a yeast artificial chromosome with a selected insert nucleic acid from a mixed population of nucleic acids comprising introducing into yeast cells the mixed population of nucleic acids and 1) a first vector comprising a yeast centromere, a yeast telomere, and a first sequence which can recombine with a region of the selected insert nucleic acid within the mixed population of nucleic acids and 2) a second vector comprising a yeast telomere and a second sequence which can recombine with a region of the selected insert nucleic acid within the mixed population of nucleic acids, and wherein, at least one of the vectors further comprises a selectable marker; whereby *in vivo* recombination makes the yeast artificial chromosome with the selected insert nucleic acid.
32. The method of claim 31, wherein the selected insert nucleic acid is for a selected species type.
33. The method of claim 32, wherein the selected species type is a human nucleic acid.
34. The method of claim 31, wherein the selected insert nucleic acid is selected from a population of nucleic acids containing hybrid nucleic acids.
35. The method of claim 31, wherein the first sequence which can recombine with a region of the selected insert nucleic acid recombines with a repeat sequence on the selected insert nucleic acid within the mixed population of nucleic acids.

36. The method of claim 31, wherein the second sequence which can recombine with a region of the selected insert nucleic acid recombines with a repeat sequence on the selected insert nucleic acid within the mixed population of nucleic acids.
37. The method of claim 31, wherein both the first sequence which can recombine with a region of the selected insert nucleic acid and the second sequence which can recombine with a region of the selected insert nucleic acid both recombine with a repeat sequence on the selected insert nucleic acid within the mixed population of nucleic acids.
38. The method of claim 31, wherein the first sequence which can recombine with a region of a selected insert nucleic acid within the mixed population of nucleic acids and the second sequence which can recombine with a region of the selected insert nucleic acid within the mixed population of nucleic acids are divergent from the sequence with which they recombine.
39. The method of claim 31, wherein the mixed population of nucleic acids, the first vector, and the second vector are combined prior to introducing the mixed population of nucleic acids and the vectors into yeast cells.
40. The method of claim 31, wherein at least one of the two vectors further comprises a yeast origin of replication.
41. The method of claim 31, wherein the two sequences which can recombine with a region of the selected insert nucleic acid are the same.
42. The method of claim 31, wherein the two sequences which can recombine with a region of the selected insert nucleic acid are different.

43. The method of claim 31, further comprising a counter-selectable marker between the two sequences which can recombine with a region of the selected nucleic acid.
44. A method of making a circular yeast artificial chromosome with a selected insert nucleic from a mixed population of nucleic acids comprising introducing into yeast cells the mixed population of nucleic acids and a vector, wherein the vector comprises a yeast centromere, a selectable marker and at least two sequences which can recombine with a region of the selected insert nucleic acid within the mixed population of nucleic acids; whereby *in vivo* recombination makes the circular yeast artificial chromosome with the selected insert nucleic acid.
45. The method of claim 44, wherein the selected insert nucleic acid is for a selected species type.
46. The method of claim 45, wherein the selected species type is a human nucleic acid.
47. The method of claim 44, wherein the selected insert nucleic acid is selected from a population of nucleic acids containing hybrid nucleic acids.
48. The method of claim 44, wherein the sequences which can recombine with a region of the selected insert nucleic acid within the mixed population of nucleic acids recombine with a repeat sequence on the selected insert nucleic acid within the mixed population of nucleic acids.
49. The method of claim 44, wherein the sequences which can recombine with a region of the selected insert nucleic acid are the same.

50. The method of claim 44, wherein the sequences which can recombine with a region of the selected insert nucleic acid are different.
51. The method of claim 44, wherein the sequences on the vector which can recombine with a region of a selected insert nucleic acid within the mixed population of nucleic acids is divergent from the sequence with which they recombine.
52. The method of claim 44, wherein the mixed population of nucleic acids and the vector are combined prior to introducing the mixed population of nucleic acids and the vector into yeast cells.
53. The method of claim 44, wherein the vector further comprises a yeast origin of replication.
54. The method of claim 44, wherein the vector further comprises a counter-selectable marker.
55. A method of cloning a selected nucleic acid from a population of nucleic acids into a vector comprising introducing into yeast cells a population of nucleic acids and the vector, wherein the vector comprises a specific sequence which can recombine with a region of the selected nucleic acid within the population of nucleic acids and a non-specific sequence which can recombine with the selected nucleic acid within the population of nucleic acids; whereby *in vivo* recombination makes a clone of the selected nucleic acid within the vector.
56. The method of claim 55, wherein the vector further comprises a counter-selectable marker between the specific and the non-specific sequences.
57. The method of claim 55, wherein the selected nucleic acid is selected from a population of nucleic acids containing hybrid nucleic acids.

58. The method of claim 55, wherein the yeast cloning vector further comprises a promoter operatively linked to the insert nucleic acid.
59. The method of claim 55, wherein the selected nucleic acid is a cDNA.
60. The method of claim 55, wherein the vector further comprises a high copy origin of replication.
61. The method of claim 55, wherein the vector further comprises a centromere.
62. The method of claim 55, wherein the specific sequence recombines with a known encoded 3' sequence of the selected nucleic acid.
63. The method of claim 55, wherein the non-specific sequence is a sequence which recombines with a 5' consensus sequence of the selected nucleic acid.
64. The method of claim 55, wherein the selected nucleic acids are members of the same family.
65. A vector comprising a yeast centromere, a selectable marker, a yeast telomere, and a non-yeast sequence which can recombine with a region of a non-yeast nucleic acid within a population of nucleic acids to form a yeast artificial chromosome.
66. The vector of claim 65, wherein the sequence which can recombine with a nucleic acid comprises a repeat sequence.
67. The vector of claim 65, further comprising a yeast origin of replication.
68. The vector of claim 65, further comprising a counter-selectable marker.

69. A kit comprising the vector of claim 65 and a second vector comprising a yeast telomere and a non-yeast sequence which can recombine with a region of a non-yeast nucleic acid within a population of nucleic acids, which when used in conjunction with the first vector makes a yeast artificial chromosome with the first vector at one end of the yeast artificial chromosome and the second vector at the other end of the yeast artificial chromosome.
70. The second vector of claim 69, wherein the sequence which can recombine with a non-yeast nucleic acid comprises a repeat sequence.
71. The second vector of claim 69, further comprising a yeast origin of replication.
72. The second vector of claim 69, further comprising a counter-selectable marker.
73. The second vector of claim 69, further comprising a selectable marker.
74. A vector comprising a yeast centromere, a selectable marker, and at least two non-yeast sequences which can recombine with a region of a non-yeast nucleic acid within a population of nucleic acids to form a yeast artificial chromosome.
75. The vector of claim 74, further comprising a yeast origin of replication.
76. The vector of claim 74, further comprising a counter-selectable marker.
77. A linear yeast artificial chromosome comprising a non-yeast nucleic acid having a non-yeast repeat sequence at a terminus of the non-yeast nucleic acid within the yeast artificial chromosome.
78. The yeast artificial chromosome of claim 77, wherein the non-yeast repeat sequence is a human repeat sequence.

79. The yeast artificial chromosome of claim 77, wherein the non-yeast nucleic acid has a non-yeast repeat sequence at both termini of the non-yeast nucleic acid within the yeast artificial chromosome.
80. A circular yeast artificial chromosome comprising a non-yeast nucleic acid having a non-yeast repeat sequence at the proximal terminus of the non-yeast nucleic acid and a non-yeast repeat sequence at the distal terminus of the non-yeast nucleic acid, wherein the proximal terminus and the distal terminus of the non-yeast nucleic acid are linked by a vector.
81. The circular yeast artificial chromosome of claim 80, wherein the non-yeast repeat sequence is a human repeat sequence.
82. A method of cloning a nucleic acid into a vector comprising introducing into prokaryotic cells a population of nucleic acids and the vector, wherein the vector comprises a selectable marker, a counter-selectable marker, and at least two sequences which can recombine with a region of a nucleic acid within the population of nucleic acids; whereby in vivo recombination makes the clone of the nucleic acid within the vector.
83. The method of claim 82, wherein the prokaryotic cells are *E. coli* cells.
84. The method of claim 83, wherein the *E. coli* cells are a mismatch-repair deficient strain of *E. coli*.

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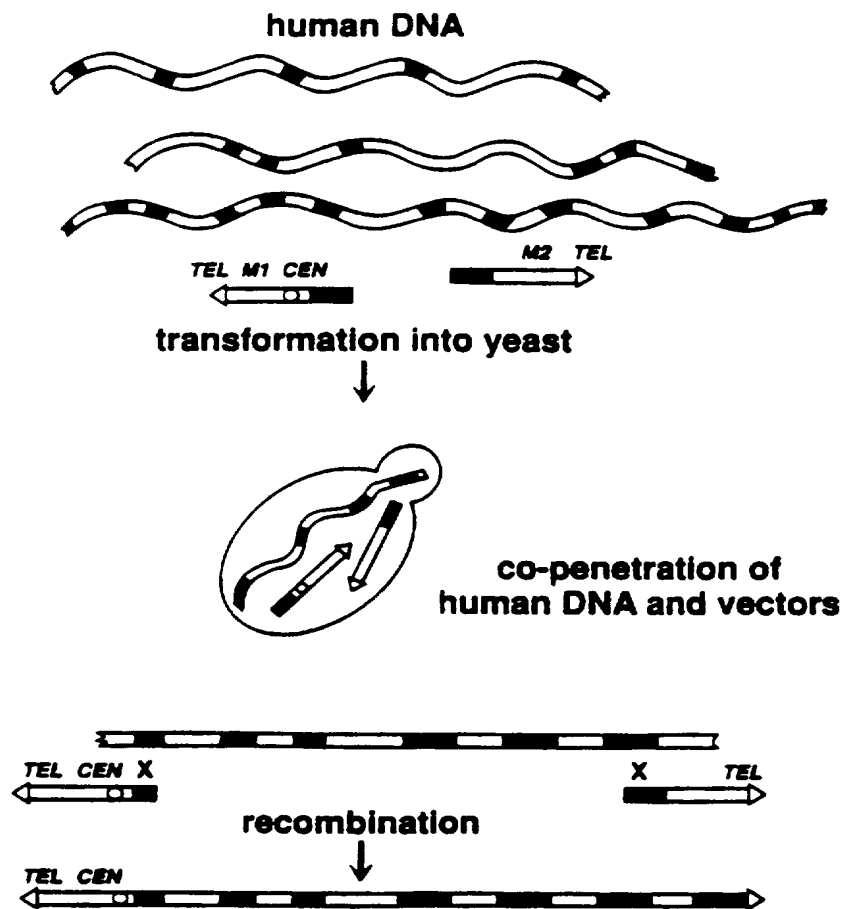


FIG. I

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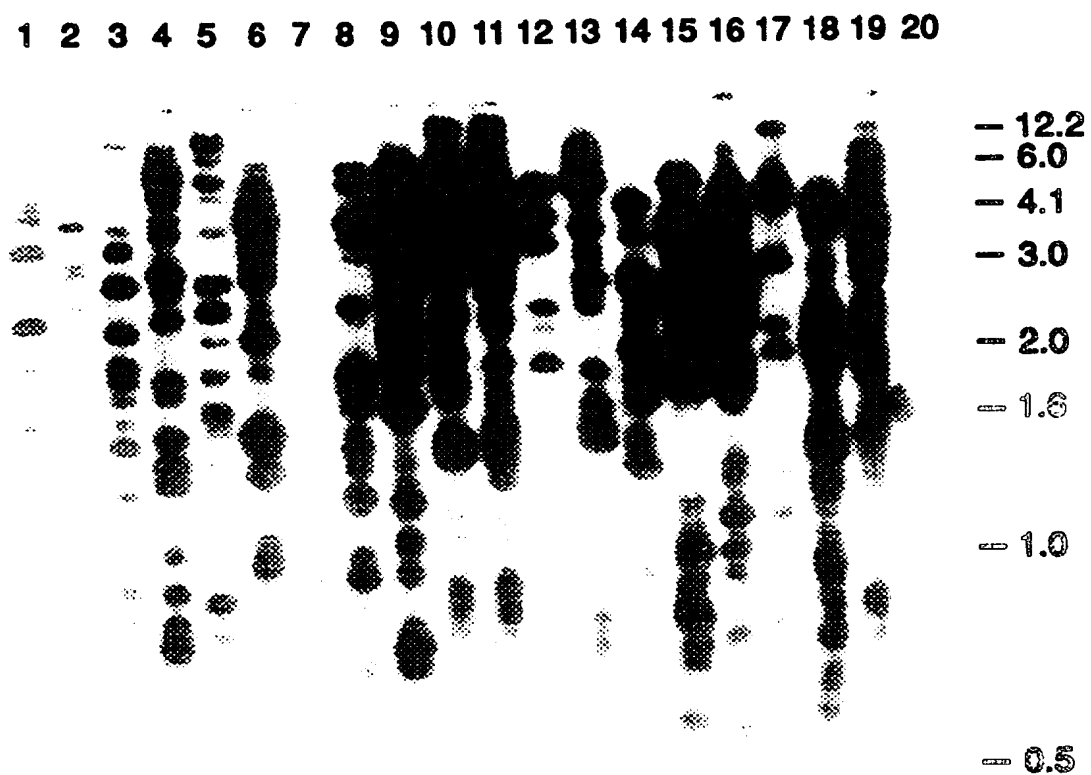


FIG.2

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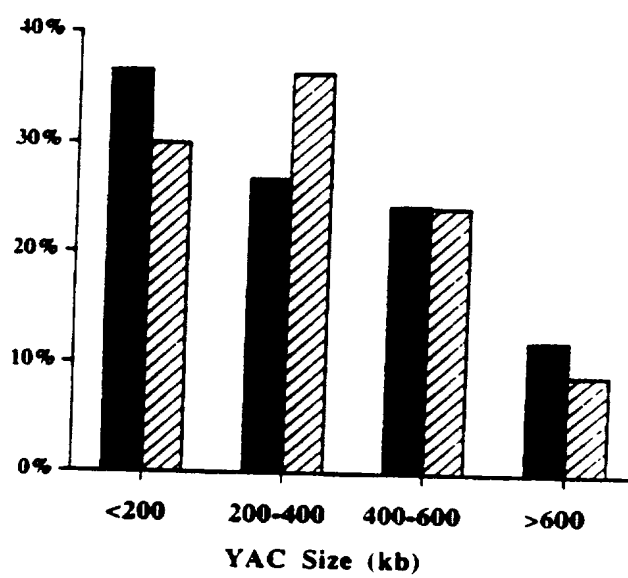


FIG.3

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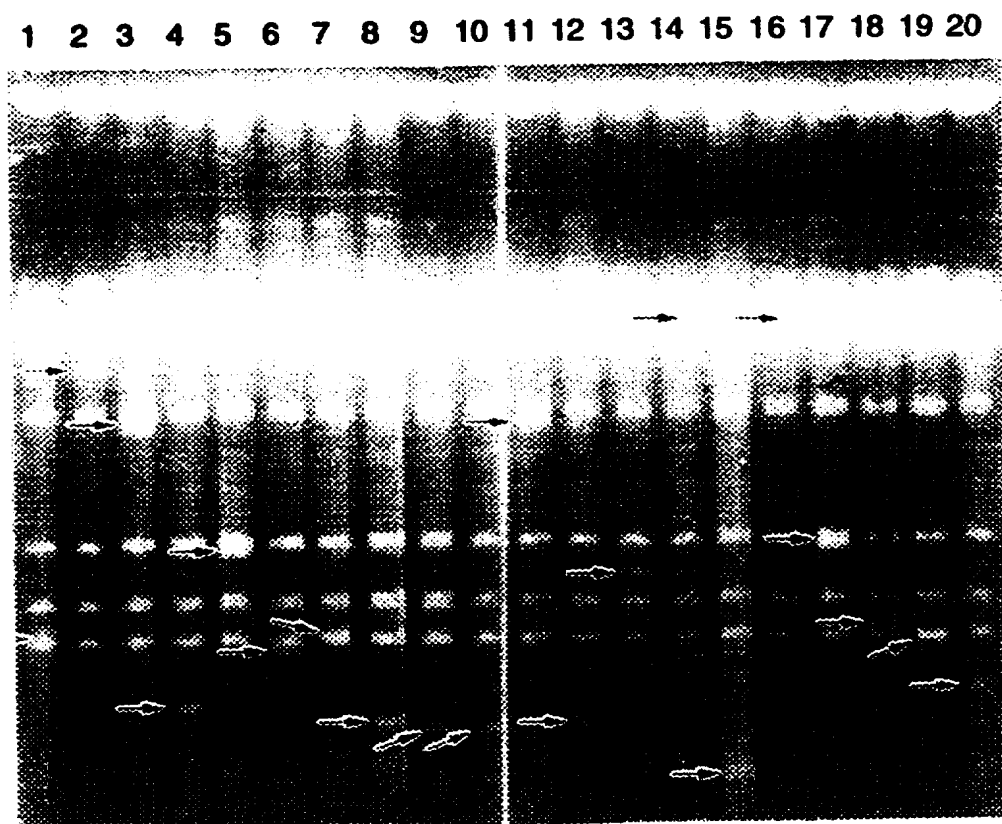


FIG.4A

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

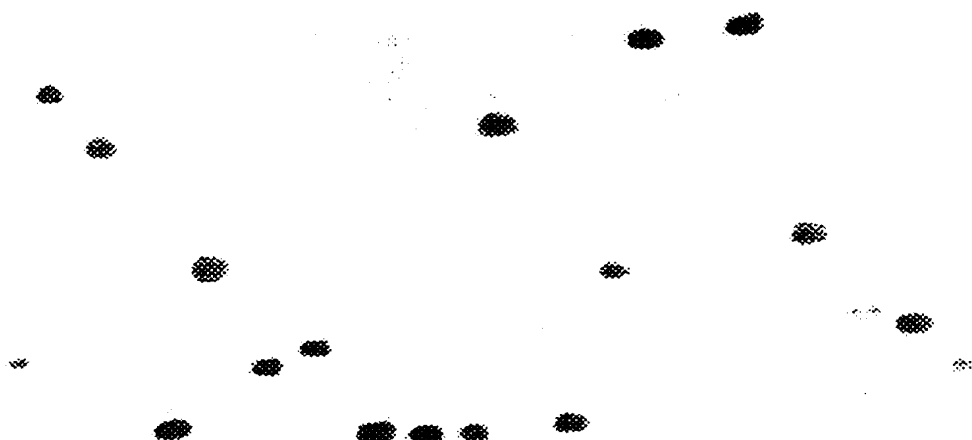


FIG.4B

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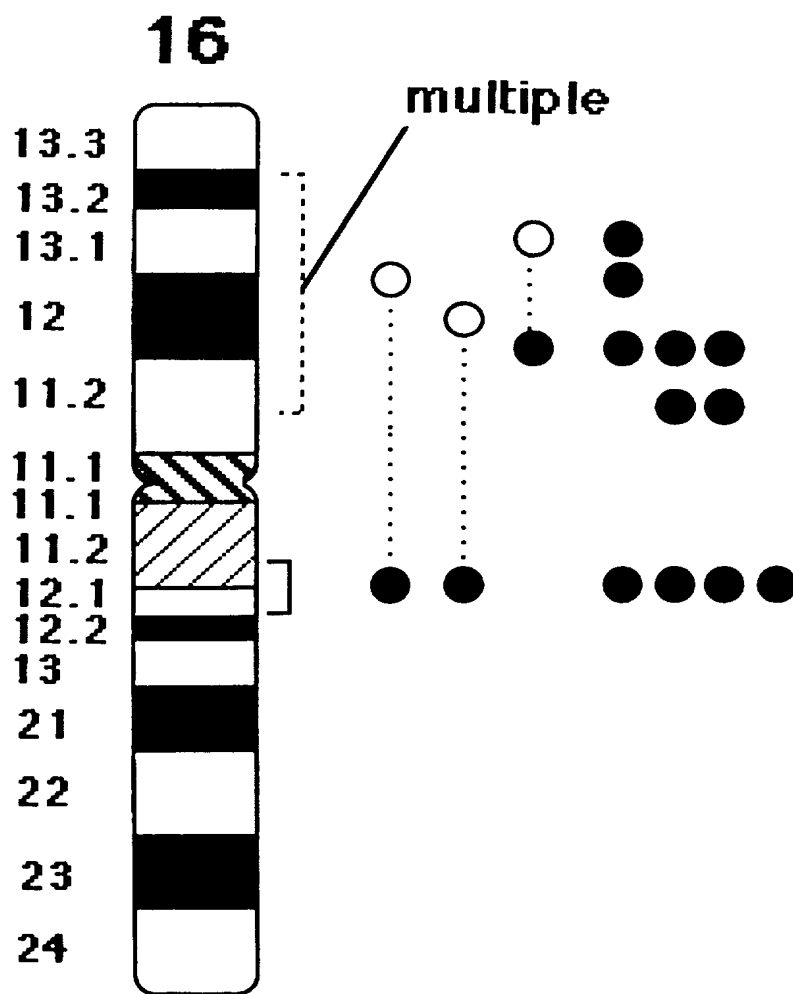


FIG.5

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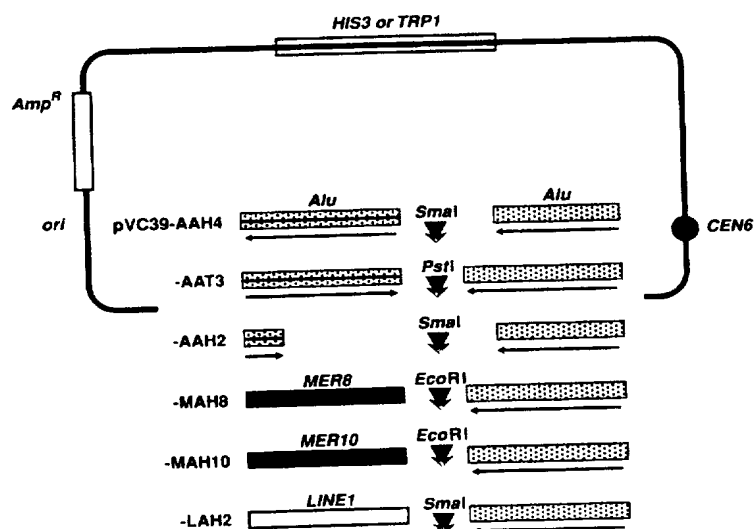
A

FIG.6A

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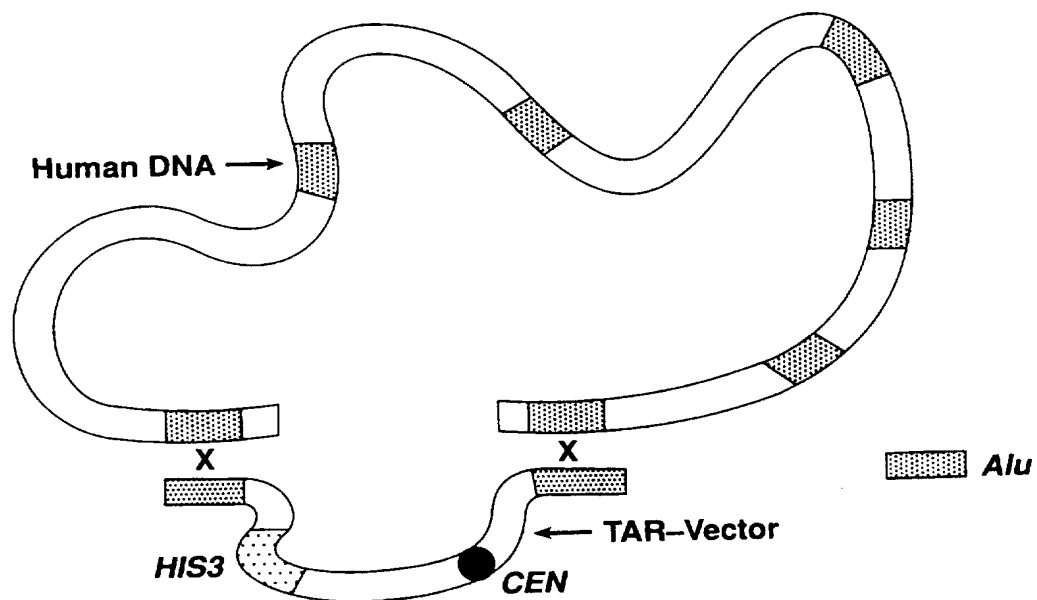
B

FIG.6B

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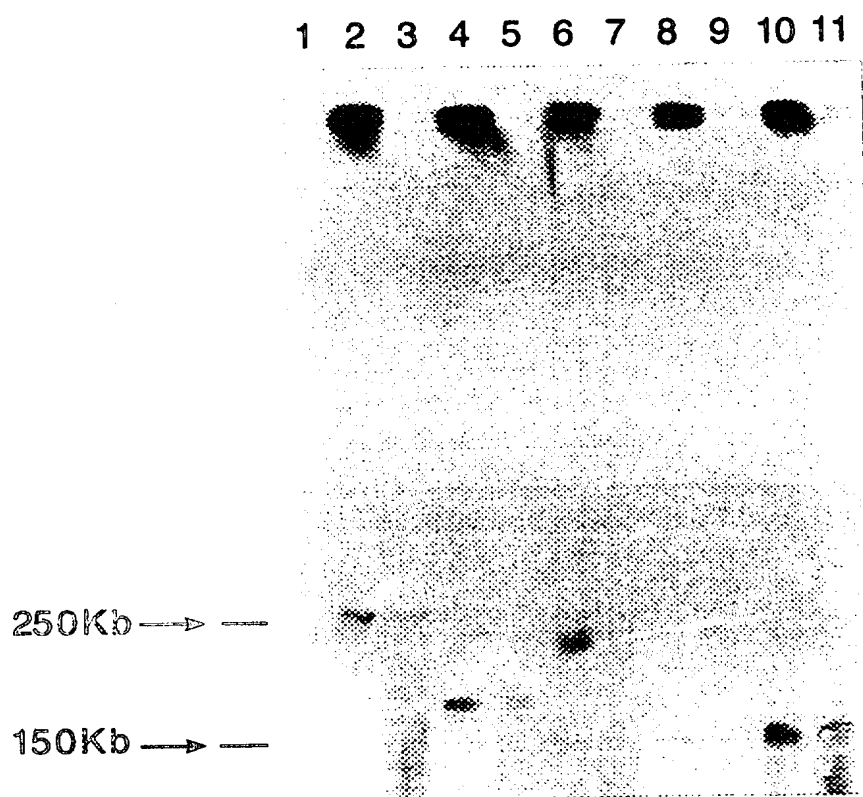


FIG. 7

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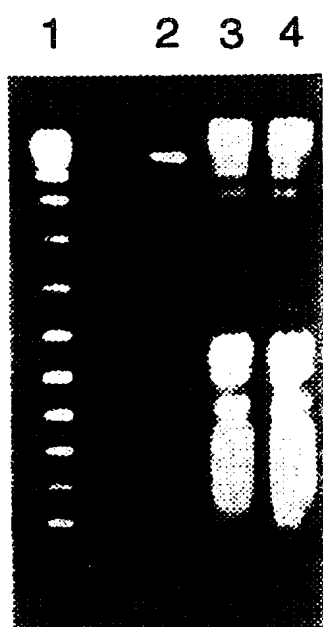


FIG.8A

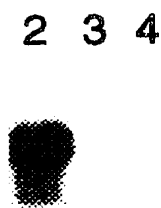


FIG.8B

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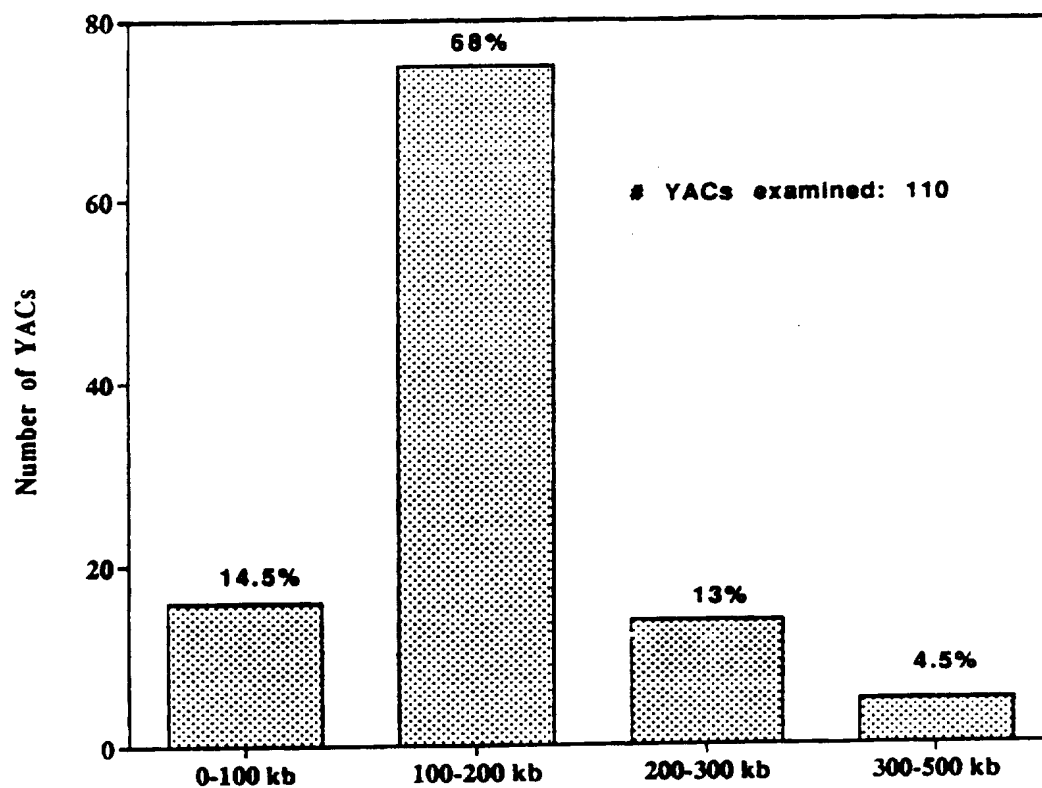
Size Distribution of Circular YACs Generated by TAR Cloning

FIG.9

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

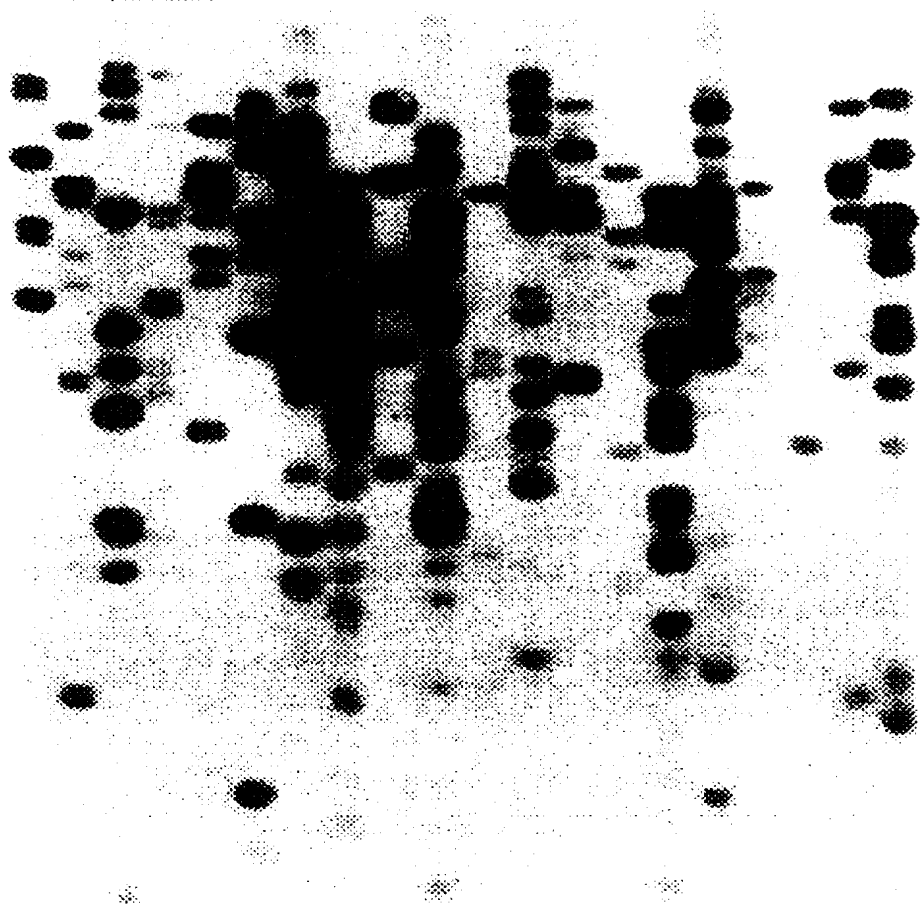


FIG.10

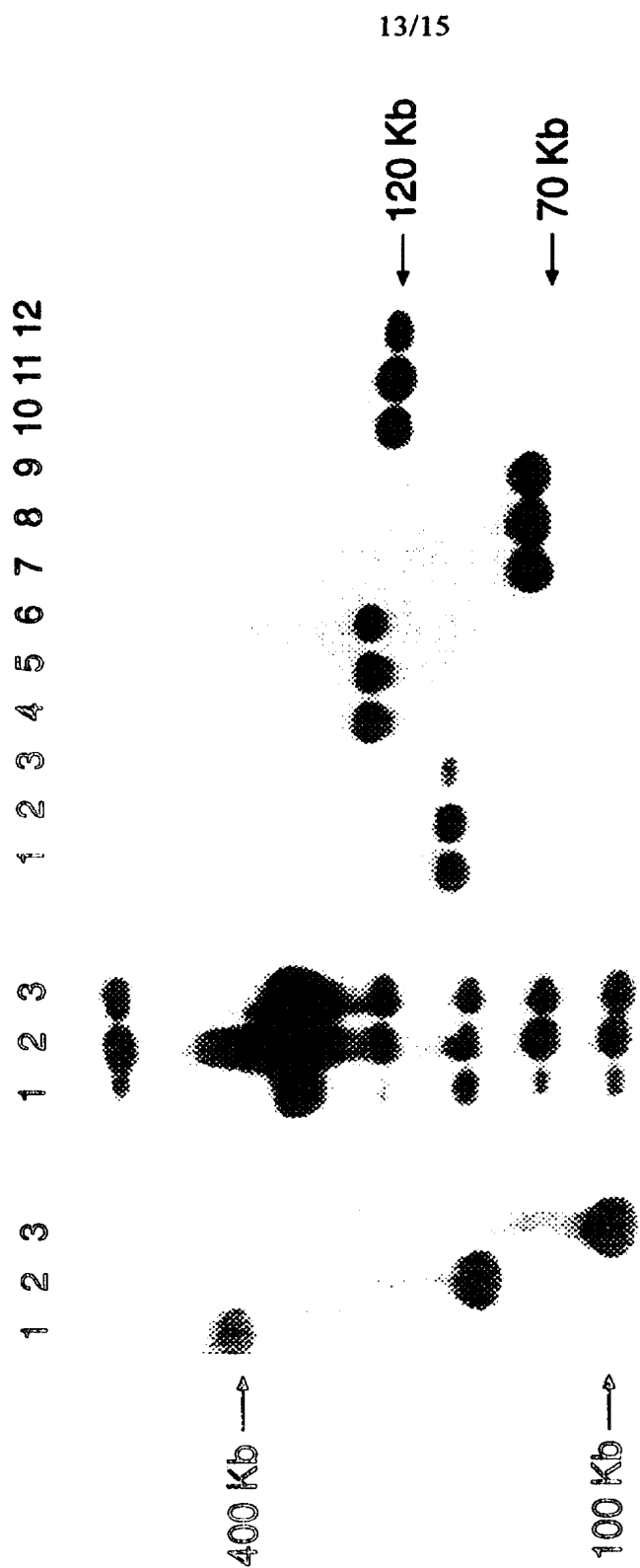


FIG. 11C

FIG. 11A FIG. 11B

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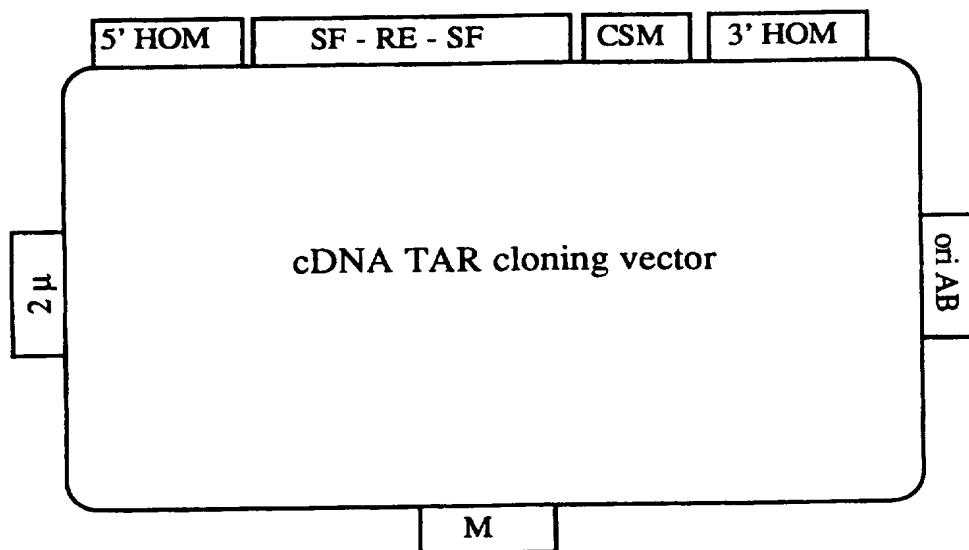


FIG. 12

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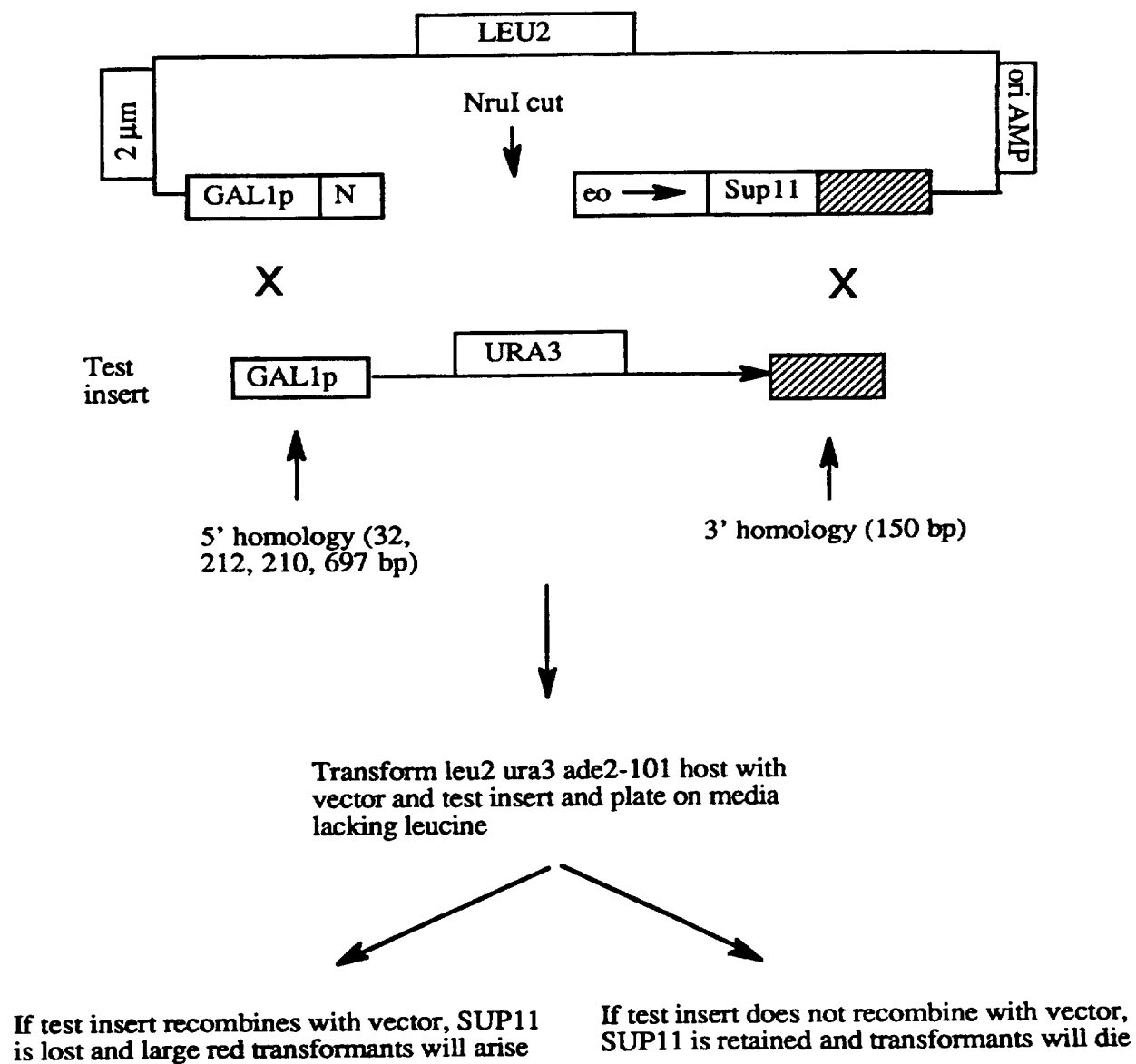


FIG.13

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/US 96/11478

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 6 C12N15/81 C12N15/85 C12N15/70

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 6 C12N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	PROC. NATL. ACAD. SCI. USA, vol. 93, January 1996, pages 491-496, XP002027290 LARIONOV ET AL.: "Specific cloning of human DNA as yeast artificial chromosomes by transformation-associated recombination." cited in the application	1-15, 24-43, 55-79
Y	see the whole document	16-23, 44-54, 80,81
	--- -/-	

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

12 March 1997

Date of mailing of the international search report

25.03.1997

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Fax: (+ 31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Mandl, B

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inter nal Application No
PCT/US 96/11478

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	<p>NUCLEIC ACIDS RESEARCH, vol. 23, no. 23, 1995, pages 4850-4856, XP002027291 BRADSHAW M.S. ET AL.: "A new vector for recombination-based cloning of large DNA fragments from yeast artificial chromosomes." see the whole document</p>	<p>16-23, 44-54, 80,81</p>
X	<p>--- NUCLEIC ACIDS RESEARCH, vol. 21, no. 22, 1993, pages 5192-5197, XP002027426 OLINER J.D. ET AL.: "In vivo cloning of PCR products in E.coli." cited in the application see the whole document, especially Fig.1</p>	<p>82,83</p>
Y	<p>--- see the whole document, especially Fig.1</p>	<p>84</p>
Y	<p>--- NATURE, vol. 342, 1989, pages 396-401, XP002027427 RAYSSIGUIER C. ET AL.: "The barrier to recombination between Escherichia coli and Salmonella typhimurium is disrupted in mismatch-repair mutants." see the whole document</p>	<p>84</p>
X	<p>--- PROC.NATL.ACAD.SCI.USA, vol. 91, June 1994, pages 6186-6190, XP000562788 KETNER G. ET AL.: "Efficient manipulation of the human adenovirus genome as an infectious yeast artificial chromosome clone." cited in the application see the whole document, especially Fig.1</p>	<p>1-15, 24-43, 55-79</p>
X	<p>--- WO 95 03400 A (JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY SCH00) 2 February 1995 see the whole document</p>	<p>1-15, 24-43, 55-79</p>
A	<p>--- WO 96 14436 A (GENPHARM INT) 17 May 1996 see the whole document</p>	<p>1-84</p>
A	<p>--- US 4 889 806 A (OLSON MAYNARD V ET AL) 26 December 1989 see the whole document</p>	<p>1-84</p>

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.
PCT/US 96/11478

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>NUCLEIC ACIDS RESEARCH, vol. 22, no. 20, 1994, pages 4154-4162, XP002027292 LARIONOV V. ET AL. : "Recombination during transformation as a source of chimeric mammalian artificial chromosomes in yeast (YACs)." cited in the application see the whole document</p> <p style="text-align: center;">---</p>	1-84
T	<p>PROC.NATL.ACAD.SCI.USA, vol. 93, November 1996, pages 13925-13930, XP002027428 LARIONOV ET AL.: "Highly selective isolation of human DNAs from rodent-human hybrid cells as circular yeast artificial chromosomes by transformation-associated recombination cloning." see the whole document, especially Fig.1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p>	16-23, 44-54, 80,81

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 96/ 11478

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

3 inventions * see continuation-sheet *

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☒ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No. PCT/US 96/ 11478

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/210

- claims 1-15,24-43,65-79 and, partially, 55-64:

Methods of making linear yeast artificial chromosomes, yeast artificial chromosomes (vectors) and kit containing them, method of cloning nucleic acids into a vector wherein the cloning occurs in vivo in yeast cells (as far as linear YACs are concerned).

- claims 16-23,44-54,80,81 and, partially, 55-64:

Method of making circular yeast artificial chromosomes, method of cloning nucleic acids into a vector wherein the cloning occurs in vivo cells (as far as circular YACs are concerned).

- claims 82-84:

Method of cloning nucleic acids into a vector wherein the cloning occurs in vivo in bacterial cells.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No
PCT/US 96/11478

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9503400 A	02-02-95	NONE	
-----	-----	-----	-----
WO 9614436 A	17-05-96	NONE	
-----	-----	-----	-----
US 4889806 A	26-12-89	NONE	
-----	-----	-----	-----